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Hazratganj

A journey through the Times

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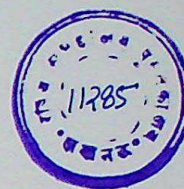
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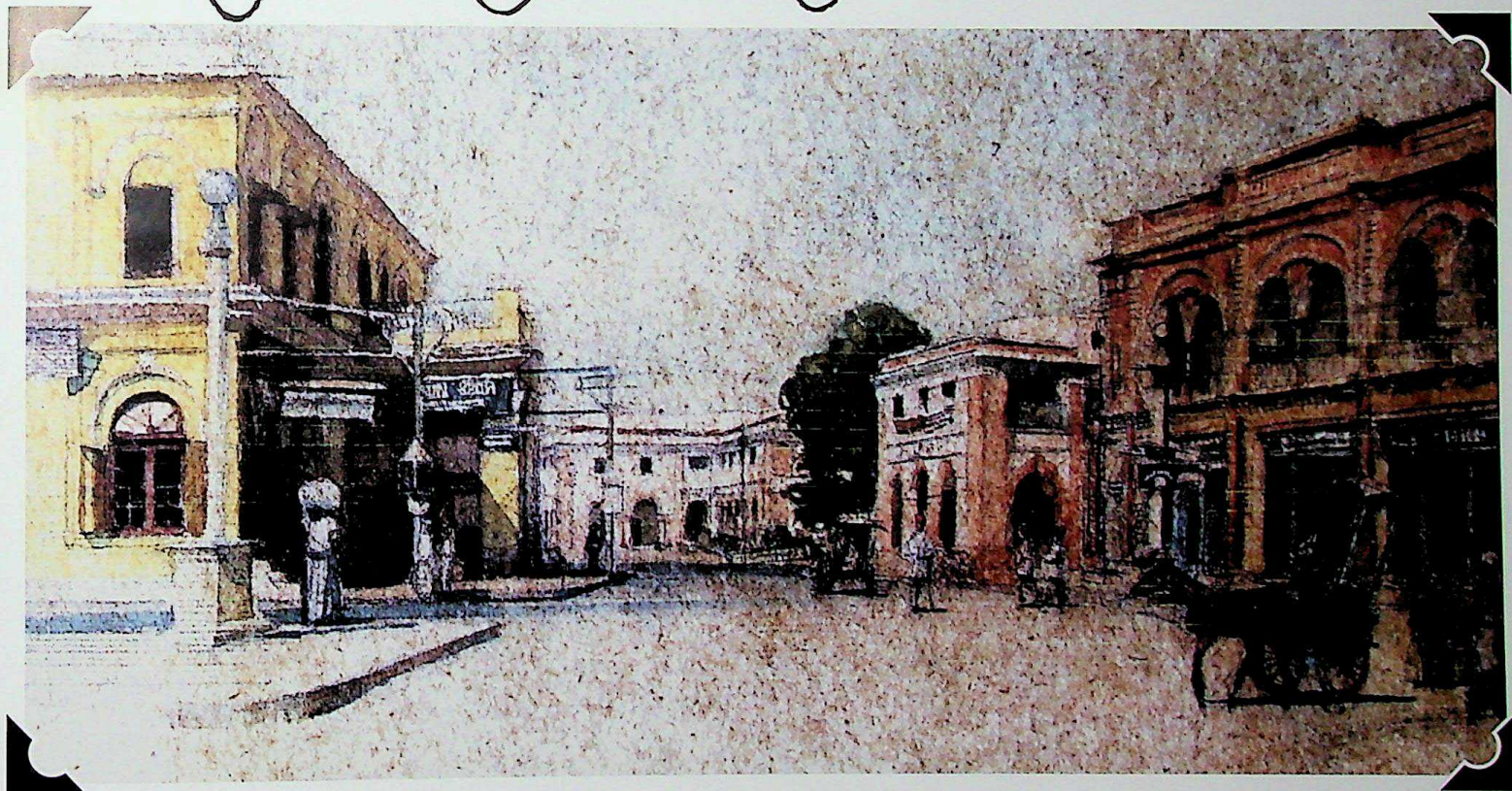
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Hazratganj – A Journey Through the Times
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Foreword



Certain places exude character, substance and sheer magnificence. They are not mere buildings but are truly icons of rich legacy and heritage, because they envelope memories, history and culture within their fold. Hazratganj is such a place!

It has witnessed the dynamic changes that the City of Nawabs has undergone over the years, and even through the mists of time, Ganj has always been the heart of the city. In fact, like an old wine, Hazratganj has only evolved to become better with time. From primarily a residential area to a commercial hub to its present day upbeat market avatar – its 200 glorious years of existence is nothing less than an epic tale.

To capture this historic journey and to immortalize the special bond that Lucknowites share with Hazratganj, The Times of India is proud to present : *Hazratganj – A Journey Through The Times*, a unique first ever compilation of Ganj, with an esteemed panel of authors, comprising Rosie Llewellyn Jones, Saleem Kidwai, Nasima Aziz, Roshan Taqui, Ashfaq A. Khan and Chander Prakash.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Ram Advani, Rani Lila Ramkumar Bhargava and Raja Jehangirabad for their invaluable support and contribution in shaping this book.

By way of this exclusive coffee table book, we take you on a journey of Ganj over the years – right from the British rule and the Nawabs to the early 20th century to the present day ultra modern commercial hub that it has developed into.

So read on and enjoy one of the most culturally rich journeys through these pages.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dhanush Vir Singh'.

Dhanush Vir Singh
Dy. General Manager

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Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

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Introduction

By Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

Fascinating snippets of information came to light when Lucknow's own historians started writing about the city they knew best

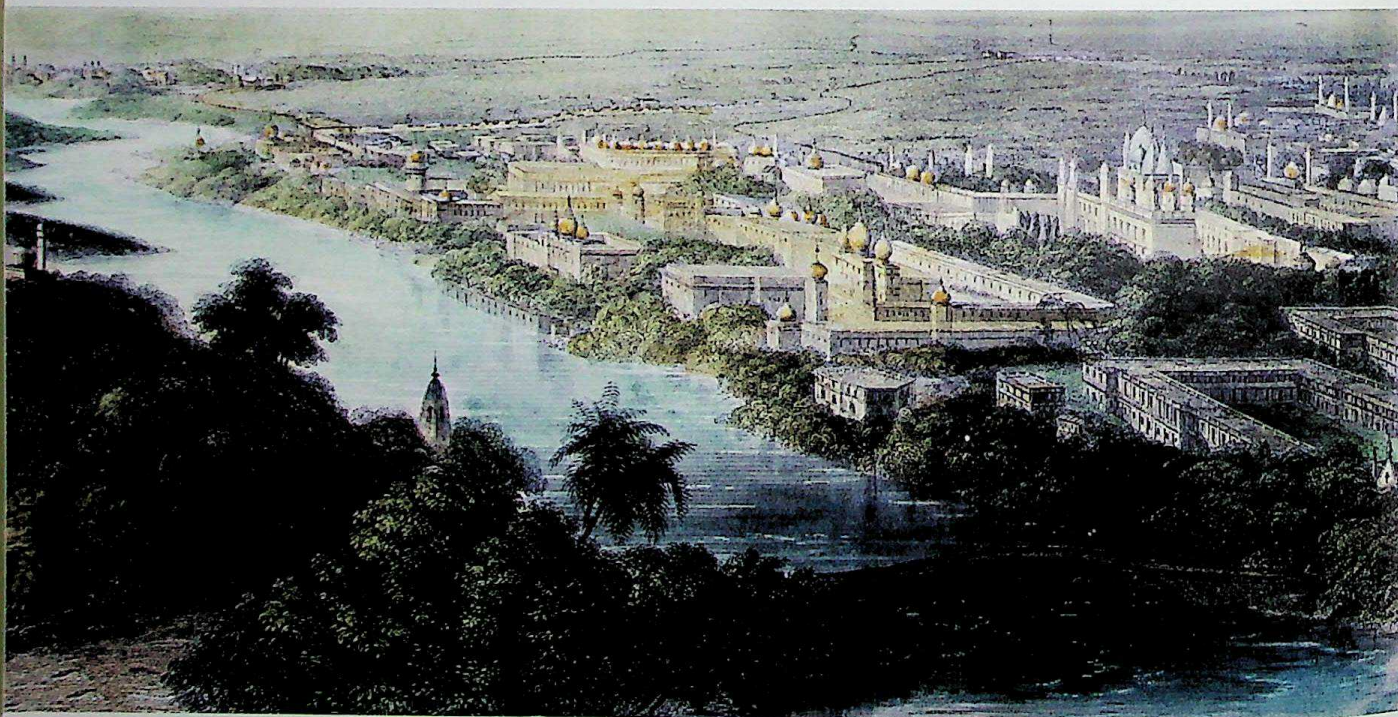
When Major General Claude Martin launched his hot-air balloon into the skies above Lucknow in 1785, it was the first time the city had ever been viewed from above. The Nawab Asaf-ud-daula was fascinated and immediately saw the possibility for aerial warfare, demanding that Martin construct a balloon capable of carrying twenty armed men aloft. Fifty years later Nawab Nasir-ud-din Haider was sitting with a group of friends in an upper room of Dilkusha Kothi, when an English gentleman floated past in his own balloon, politely bowing to the astonished monarch.

Our twenty-first century equivalent of the hot-air balloon is Google Earth, described as a virtual globe that lets the viewer fly anywhere on earth. It is instructive to study Hazratganj, the main street of Nawabi Lucknow, from the air. It runs straight as a die between Dilkusha Kothi and the British Residency, both now in ruins, with only a minor kink where Ashok Marg intersects it. Ashok Marg, formerly Outram Road, is almost a newcomer, as roads go, being carved out by the British after 1858, and spitefully cutting the Sikanderbagh in half.

Hazratganj, celebrating its second centenary, is the real

showpiece of Lucknow, the central core of the city, laid out south of the Gomti. The arrow-like straightness of the road seems to rebuke the winding river, as if to say 'nature created you, but I was made by a King'. Hovering over the street it is easier to see how the buildings that line it today developed from the great estates which originally fronted Hazratganj. What seems confusing at ground level is resolved from the air. The phantom compounds are clearer, divided by alleys and passageways that marked their boundaries. The number of trees and open areas behind the facades come as a surprise particularly when every inch of space seems, to the casual pedestrian on the pavement, to be over-crowded.

Fascinating snippets of information came to light when Lucknow's own historians started writing about the city they knew best. The small, hidden tomb of a Nawabi prince lies in a tangle of buildings at Janpath Market. Why there, one asks? Because this bustling commercial centre was once part of the Begum Kothi, built by Nawab Amjad Ali Shah for a favourite wife. And what better place to inter a much-loved son than in what was then a large and peaceful garden. North of Hazratganj an old house shown on the



Bird's eye view of Lucknow.
From the collection of
Andrew Ward

View of the
Allahabad Bank
building before the
GPO was built

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

*Today it is the
people and the
places in and
around Hazratganj
that contribute to
its liveliness and
appeal both to the
intellect and the
sheer joy of
shopping. Where
else can you get
chikan-work,
household goods,
clothing, excellent
food and
philosophical
discussions in its
bookshops?*

1856 census with the curious name of Kothi Astro Manager was probably where the novelist Attia Hosain lived as a child. Why the odd house name? Because this seems to have been the residence of Lieutenant Colonel Wilcox, the British astronomer appointed to run the Nawab's Observatory, a man who wanted to live next door to his work. And his Observatory still stands today, although its poetical name, Taronwali Kothi (the House of Stars) is now the more prosaic State Bank of India.

The past, particularly here in Lucknow, cannot be separated from the present. The recent refurbishment of Hazratganj, although it caused temporary disruption, has restored the street to something of its former glory. It will never be as wide again as it originally was because encroachment has constricted it and in most cases done away with the garden frontages. The Nur Bakhsh Kothi, home to the District Magistrate today, gives an idea of the grand entrance, through a proper gateway, to the kind of buildings that once lined the street. Next door, Jehangirabad still boasts a delightful garden in front of the Palace with a drive leading to the portico. The Habibullah house, across the road, once had a similarly imposing entrance on to Hazratganj. Its gate-pillars disappeared only a few years ago.

But this book, imaginatively commissioned by The Times of India, is not just an exercise in nostalgia, although there is plenty of that. It shows how Hazratganj has constantly been re-inventing and updating itself. There is

certainly room for criticism as much loved buildings have been felled for unsympathetic new developments. The huge outcry that was unable to save the hundred-year-old kotwali at the eastern end of the street (it is now a multi-storey carpark), means that hopefully no further demolitions of this kind will take place in future.

Today it is the people and the places in and around Hazratganj that contribute to its liveliness and appeal both to the intellect and the sheer joy of shopping. Where else can you get chikan-work, household goods, clothing, excellent food and philosophical discussions in its bookshops? Spiritual, commercial, educational and entertainment needs are all catered for here in one street. We can paraphrase Dr Samuel Johnson and say that 'when a man is tired of Hazratganj, he is tired of life.'

In editing this book I have learnt a lot about Lucknow and particularly Hazratganj. Even after more than three decades spent studying the city, there is still so much more to learn. This book provides many of the answers. It follows the history of the street, from its beginnings early in the nineteenth century, through the dark days of the rebellion of 1857/58, its emergence as a smart shopping and entertainment area in the days of the British Raj, to the present day. There are interviews with residents, which bring out the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Hazratganj, including its small Parsi and Anglo-Indian communities. In fact, rather like Hazratganj itself, there is something here for everybody to enjoy.

Hazratganj:

The Beginning

By Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

The young man, then in his early twenties, had already been exposed to western society and spoke English fluently.

He eagerly embraced English customs, particularly horse-riding and hunting and was pictured in a riding coat with white breeches and leather boots

It all started because of a murder, or the suspicion of a murder. When Asaf-ud-daula, the fourth Nawab, made Lucknow his capital in 1775, he brought with him members of his own staff from Faizabad. Determined to break with the past, and to escape an unhappy relationship with his mother, it was not surprising that the new Nawab wanted to install his own men at Court, in place of his late father's officials. One of Asaf-ud-daula's supporters, Murtaza Khan, had been manager of the Nawab's estates, and his family had served both the Mughal and the Awadh administrations.¹ Murtaza Khan therefore got the prime post of Chief Minister, but had little time to enjoy it before he was assassinated on the orders of a disgruntled army general, left over from the previous regime and facing an uncertain future. A small group of such men had gathered around Asaf-ud-daula's half-brother, Saadat Ali Khan and although the man who was to become the fifth Nawab probably had no direct hand in the

assassination, he nevertheless fled to Calcutta with some of the conspirators.

Here he was warmly welcomed by officials of the East India Company, who doubtless wondered how they could turn Saadat Ali Khan's arrival to their own advantage. The young man, then in his early twenties, had already been exposed to western society and spoke English fluently. He eagerly embraced English customs, particularly horse-riding and hunting and was pictured in a riding coat with white breeches and leather boots.² He also developed a passion for European architecture, which was to remain with him for the rest of his life. While in Calcutta he resided in a European 'Garden House' which he bought from Colonel Alexander Kyd. The house stood in, or near, the Botanical Gardens.³ Calcutta was already being described as a 'city of palaces' and indeed parts of it, particularly when seen from the Hooghly, reminded Europeans strongly of pictures of classical Greece or Rome. There

Pic Courtesy : The Alkazi Collection of Photography



▶ Shops appear along Hazratganj, including a photographer's studio.

The tall structure, centre, with small open arches may be the remains of one of the Hazratganj gates. Note the grain market on the right hand side. c.1871

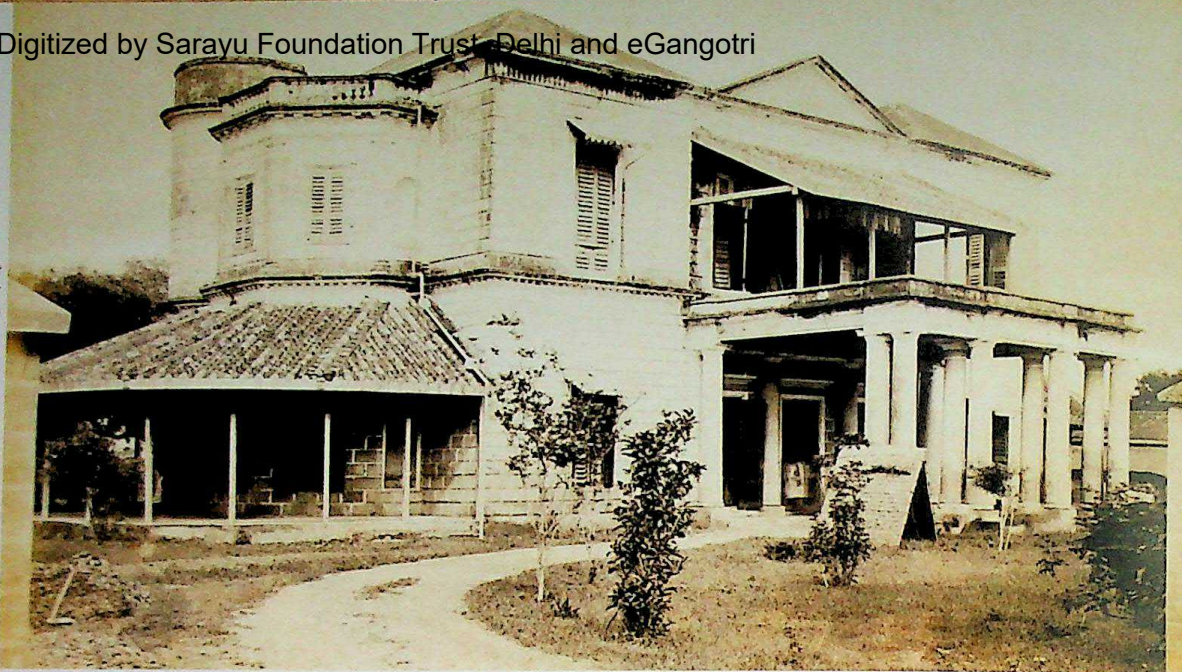
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Transforming City of Nawabs

The Kankarwali Kothi, from
'The Lucknow Album' by
Daroga Abbas Ali, 1874

Digitized by Sarayu Foundation Trust, Delhi and eGangotri

Pic Courtesy: The Alkazi Collection of Photography



*People arriving in
Lucknow,
particularly if they
came up-country
from Calcutta,
sailed up to
Cawnpore (as it
was called then),
crossed the Ganges
by a pontoon
bridge and drove
into the city
through the dismal
Old Cawnpore
Road that led into
the Chowk*

were the same dazzling white verandahs at first floor level (achieved by stucco applied to bricks), and the same Corinthian pillars supporting the upper floors, which were easy to mimic with small bricks round an iron core and more stucco. The flat roofs, and of course the balmy climate and glitter of the river in the distance, all added to the impression of a Mediterranean city.

Early in 1798 Saadat Ali Khan suddenly found himself being courted by the East India Company. Asaf-ud-daula had died the year before in Lucknow, and it looked as if his son and heir, Wazir Ali, was not turning out to be the pliable young man that the Company had hoped for. In a series of quite unscrupulous moves the Company acted swiftly to secure its position in Awadh. Wazir Ali was declared not to be Asaf-ud-daula's son at all. Saadat Ali Khan was then coerced into giving up considerable tracts of Awadh to the greedy Company in return for becoming the next ruling Nawab. This meant he could return to the city of Lucknow, which he had last seen more than twenty years ago. And how it had changed. His half-brother had moved out of the old mediaeval fortress, the Macchi Bhawan, into the elegant new palace complex of the Daulat Khana. The Bara Imambara, with its spectacular entrance flanked by the Rumi Darwaza and the Tripolia Gate was attracting Shi'a pilgrims from far and wide. Even the British had done rather well for themselves, by taking over some hilly ground south of the Gomti and establishing the Residency there.

One thing, however, had not changed, and that was the awful condition of the roads leading into the city. People arriving in Lucknow, particularly if they came up-country from Calcutta, sailed up to Cawnpore (as it was called then), crossed the Ganges by a pontoon bridge and drove

into the city through the dismal Old Cawnpore Road that led into the Chowk. There were many complaints of 'wretchedness, filth and vice' and of dirty, narrow streets, 'crowded with bazaars and poor people'. It was evident, noted Thomas Twining in 1795 that the 'splendour of this celebrated capital' was confined to the palace.⁴ Saadat Ali Khan was stung by this criticism, the more so since he could understand English and read the English newspapers sent up from Calcutta.

The Nawab soon decided on his return that what Lucknow wanted was not more religious buildings, but town planning on the European pattern. He was quick to realise what could, and what couldn't, be done. There was no point in trying to reconfigure the old, medieval heart of Lucknow, based around the Chowk. The grand buildings of Asaf-ud-daula were already becoming such an attraction for religious pilgrims that they had to remain too. However, one thing he could do with comparative ease, was to relocate the British cantonment from the north bank of the river, directly opposite the palaces, to an area some four miles away from the city, at Mariaon. The British didn't like the move, but were powerless to do anything about it. This released land for residential building, but more importantly, it signalled that Lucknow was not a garrison town, like Allahabad, but a city of culture.

Sir Gore Ouseley was a polished English entrepreneur who later became a diplomat. Through the patronage of the then Governor General, Lord Wellesley, Ouseley was appointed as *aide-de-camp* to Saadat Ali Khan in Lucknow. We do not know which of them, the Nawab, or his *aide-de-camp*, suggested building an English-style country house near Lucknow, but once the suggestion was made, it was quickly followed up. We can imagine Saadat Ali Khan

eagerly thumbing through books of architectural drawings, including the great pattern book *Vitruvius Britannicus* with its detailed drawings of the best country houses in Britain. Among the houses sketched out is Seaton Delaval, designed by the eclectic architect Sir John Vanburgh and built between 1718 and 1728 in Northumberland, England. It was this house that the Nawab wanted copied, and Gore Ouseley supervised its construction in a hunting park to the south east of the city. The new building, skilfully recreated from the pattern book, was named Dilkusha (heart-pleasing). One of the features that made it particularly attractive for the horse-loving nawab was its large stable block, with stalls set on both sides of a central corridor. Ironically this stable block still exists in fairly good repair, while little of the house itself remains.

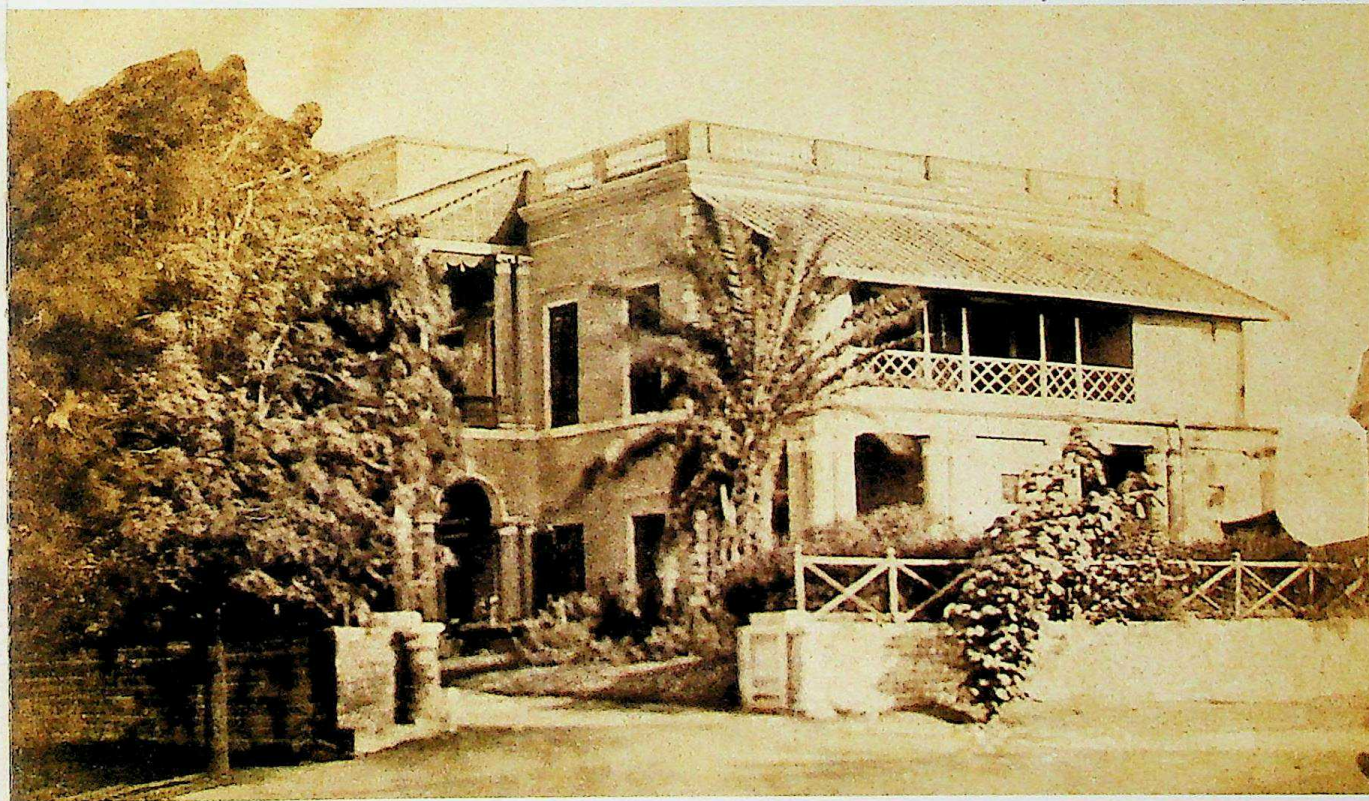
At the time of the Dilkusha's construction there were only two other buildings in this isolated and jungly area, both designed by the Frenchman Major General Claude Martin. One was Martin's own tomb, which had mushroomed into a great palace, called Constantia. The other was Bibiapur, a conventional Palladian-style house where important guests would stay on their journeys to and from Lucknow. The three European-designed buildings thus formed an interesting suburb to the city, but the real inspiration to connect Dilkusha to Lucknow by a

new road probably came from Saadat Ali Khan himself, based on his memories of Calcutta's Chowringhee.

If the Dilkusha Kothi marked one end of the road, then where was the other? A clue comes from a little-known source. In 1814 the artist Sita Ram was chosen to accompany the then Governor General, the Earl of Moira (later Marquess of Hastings) on a journey up-country. Enough time was spent in Lucknow for Sita Ram to create three of his delicate watercolours. He chose to paint Constantia, many years before it became La Martiniere School, but significantly also painted the Dilkusha Kothi and, at the other end of the 'new road', the British Residency building which had been completed in about 1798.⁵ The Residency, in Sita Ram's painting, is a plain building, without charm, but clearly European. It was joined some years later, by the more elegant Banqueting Hall, the building that most closely resembles the 'palaces' along Chowringhee. There is no suggestion that Saadat Ali Khan had a hand in either the Residency, or the Banqueting Hall, which were designed by the British, although the Nawab owned the land on which they stood. So the 'new road' was laid between the Dilkusha and the British Residency, both European buildings on Nawabi land.

European visitors praised the new road, describing it as 'one very handsome street, after the European fashion, above a mile in length, with bazaars striking out at right

Pic Courtesy : The Alkazi Collection of Photography



One of the features that made it particularly attractive for the horse-loving nawab was its large stable block, with stalls set on both sides of a central corridor. Ironically this stable block still exists in fairly good repair, while little of the house itself remains

◀ The Nur Bakhsh Kothi, (now the District Magistrate's office) c.1865

Map Sketch - Prem Sharma



Part of the map by
Lieut. Colonel D.C. Vanrenan,
Revenue Surveyor, 1862-63,
showing Hazratganj with
the new road cutting
through Qaisarbagh



Ploughed earth in front of the Residency. Everything at the north west end of Hazratganj has been demolished by the British. c.1858

Pic Courtesy : Dhru Kumar Nouraldin



By 1857, when we have the first accurate maps of Lucknow, buildings had grown up between the Chaupar Stables and Hazratganj, which would not have been there when the road was first built

fanciful, oriental-like 'Strawberry Gothic' style, not the better-known solemn Gothic of the Houses of Parliament. There were no further complaints from visitors about the disgusting state of Lucknow's roads, because they were now diverted on to what was to become Hazratganj, and, if British, were able to drive straight to the Residency, where they were accommodated.

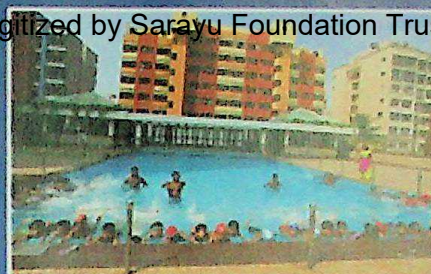
What would the visitors have seen as they bowled along the smooth highway from Dilkusha towards the Residency? Mainly jungle and scrub along both sides of the road at first, but suddenly, to the right, an extraordinary structure known as the Chaupar Stables. The Nawab had combined his two great loves – horses and architecture, in a unique building, which has no parallel anywhere else in the world. The building was cruciform, that is, it was shaped like a cross, with four wings. It was designed so that one man, standing at the exact centre of the building, could see what was happening along all four corridors of stalls.⁸ The Dilkusha stable block may have provided some inspiration, but it is more likely that the Nawab had learnt about the great Panopticon designed by the Englishman Jeremy Bentham, and had decided to adapt it to his own needs in India. The English Panopticon, which was not built during Bentham's life-time, was a revolutionary new kind of prison. With its radiating corridors built out from a

central command point, it enabled a few guards to keep watch over numerous prisoners in their cells. A number of prisons existing today were built on this model, but the Lucknow stables are the only example of the panoptic idea being adapted for animals, not humans. The name 'Chaupar' came from the ancient Indian board game, where a cloth embroidered with four 'arms' is spread out and the game played with cowrie shells and wooden pawns. The Chaupar Stables were perfectly aligned to the four points of the compass, so that it did not run parallel to Hazratganj, which has a south-west to north-east alignment. There was certainly nothing haphazard about its design, and it was meticulously planned and executed.

Only one of the four wings remains today, a battered and bruised wreck south of Lawrence Terrace. But treat it with respect – it is the sole reminder of a unique experiment combining 18th century English theory with practical Indian horse-rearing skills. By 1857, when we have the first accurate maps of Lucknow, buildings had grown up between the Chaupar Stables and Hazratganj, which would not have been there when the road was first built. The boundary walls of the stables contained covered stalls to protect the horses from the sun, and the southern boundary wall ran alongside Hazratganj, with a gateway onto the road.

Advancing along the 'new road' the visitor would then have passed under the first of the two gateways that led into the 'well-built new chowk' described above. No trace or picture remains of these Grecian/Moorish gateways, so we only know of them from written descriptions. The 'chowk' or 'ganj' which gave its name to Hazratganj, was not a very large area, but it was important because it was a secure area, with gates at either end, which would have been guarded night and day. Both the Rumi Darwaza and the Hussainabad gateway give us some idea of what the Hazratganj gateways would have looked like. Almost certainly they would have had three openings, the central arch for wheeled and animal traffic, high enough to accommodate an elephant and its riders, and the two smaller adjoining arches for pedestrians. A description from the 1850s places the Sibtainabad Imambara (the tomb of Nawab Amjad Ali Shah), in the centre of the gated area.⁹ We do not know when the name 'Hazratganj' came into use. It may have been only after the burial of Amjad Ali Shah in 1847, but it was certainly current by the mid 1850s and by then was being used for the whole street, not just the gated area in front of the tomb.

Exactly where the gates stood is a puzzle. The western gate seems to have been opposite the road that led to the Moti Mahal palace, and the eastern gate may have stood just after the road that turns down into Lalbagh. A golden opportunity to solve the mystery was lost during recent excavations (2010) to lay down new paving and lighting



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During his short reign, which was abruptly ended by the British annexation of Awadh, Wajid Ali Shah carried out an extensive building programme. In his own way he was as passionate about architecture as his great grandfather Nawab Saadat Ali Khan

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along Hazratganj. Clumps of lakhori brick could be seen in the ground outside Nur Bakhsh Kothi, the District Magistrate's fine residence, which may confirm the western gate. But the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was indifferent to this author's plea for a proper excavation. All I could do was photograph the trenches and to observe that the road surfaces were about a foot deep, and made up of varying materials and colours, reflecting the different surfaces that had been laid down since about 1810.

A number of changes took place during the 1830s and 1840s that seriously affected the western end of the road. The Chhatar Manzil palace complex was developed and spread itself extravagantly across Hazratganj, cutting the road in two and effectively blocking it off to traffic. Saadat Ali Khan would have been horrified. The far end of the road, nearest the Residency, ran past one of the infamous town jails, and was barred at the end by the Latkan Darwaza, which stood aggressively fronting the Baillie Guard gateway. One of the most striking images taken after the British recapture of the city in March 1858 shows the two gateways, one Indian and one British, facing each other like two battle-scarred warriors. Of course it was the British gate that survived. A huge amount of demolition was carried out by the British, who swept away the intricate web of buildings between the Chhatar Manzil and the Qaisarbagh palaces. In doing so, the west end of Hazratganj was reinstated along its originally intended path, as it is today, leading through the Baillie Guard Gate and into the Residency.

British demolitions had begun almost as soon as the last Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah, left Lucknow for Calcutta in March 1856. The elegant bazaars striking off at right angles from Hazratganj were destroyed, amid huge protests from the townsfolk, although it seems that the Khas Bazaar, the most famous shopping centre in 'new' Lucknow may have survived until 1858.¹⁰ At least three mosques were torn down, including the one outside the Chaupar Stables, which the historian Saiyed Anwer Abbas names as the Buland Masjid. This was extremely foolish behaviour on the part of the Chief Commissioner, Coverley Jackson, who had been appointed after Sir James Outram, the last British Resident, had left for health reasons. Even the new Commissioner for Lucknow, Major John Sherbrooke Banks, questioned whether it was wise to pull down masjids, and when people threatened a *hangama*, or rising, the kotwal reported that he could not quell a riot and demolitions were halted.¹¹

During his short reign, which was abruptly ended by the British annexation of Awadh, Wajid Ali Shah carried out an extensive building programme. In his own way he was as passionate about architecture as his great grandfather Nawab Saadat Ali Khan. The huge Qaisarbagh palace complex was developed, which neatly incorporated

the tombs of Saadat Ali Khan and his wife into its boundary terrace, fronting Hazratganj. Garden palaces including Sikanderbagh and Alambagh were built, but the last Nawab also made sure that his father's tomb in Hazratganj was completed and maintained. Shortly after coming to the throne Wajid Ali Shah deposited Rs. 7 lakhs in the British Residency's Treasury as 'a perpetual loan'. The interest of 5% per annum was to go towards the expenses of his father's mausoleum on Hazratganj 'so that his late Majesty's soul may always derive the benefit of this permanent charity', as his son wrote.¹² Expenses for the Sibtainabad Imambara included the employment of a *daroga* (superintendent), 11 men to read the Koran, watchmen, sweepers, gardeners, masons and carpenters, *chowkidars*, *muezzins*, *bhistis* (water carriers), musicians, sepoys and many more. In all nearly 170 men were to be employed at an annual cost of nearly Rs. 16,000. And there was more too – Rs. 5,000 each year to mark Moharram, the same amount to mark the death anniversary of the late King, and Rs. 500 to be spent during Ramadan. Wajid Ali Shah was deeply devoted to his 'revered father' as he called him, which makes the long term neglect of the Sibtainabad Imambara all the more sad and disrespectful, particularly when it was being used as a government office and a carpentry workplace. The terrace of single-storey apartments around the imambara which was later allocated to Anglo-Indian families, was originally intended to house pilgrims coming to pray at Amjad Ali Shah's tomb.

It is ironic that evidence of war should have been recently discovered outside the tomb of this man of peace. Renovations in December 2010 uncovered an enormous 25kg cannon ball embedded in the soil in front of the Hazratganj imambara.¹³ It was fired in March 1858 by British troops during the recapture of the city, and fired from the opposite bank of the Gomti, across the intervening buildings, which gives some idea of the enormous range of this heavy weaponry. The defenders of Lucknow simply had nothing similar to these kinds of armaments, and although they had built huge defensive bunds to the south of the city, these were no match for the concentrated firepower of the British. (It is another irony that when the cannon-ball was unearthed, the ASI leapt into action and took it into safe-keeping, thus demonstrating that a British cannon-ball is of more interest than the footings of Nawabi buildings.) As British troops fought their way into the city, a member of the royal family, Nawab Mifta-ud-daula, stood on the roof of the Sibtainabad Imambara and watched the soldiers marching down Hazratganj.¹⁴

Political events changed the face of Lucknow for ever. A new road was built, branching off from Hazratganj where the Tulsi Complex stands today. It cut through the heart of the Chhatar Manzil palace complex, skirting the Gomti, and became the main road leading towards the Bara



The Baillie Guard Gate (centre) faces the battered Lalkhan Darwaza or Clock Tower Gateway (left), which marked the north west end of Hazratganj, c. 1858

Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

Imambara and Hussainabad. The western end of Hazratganj that led to the old British Residency consequently became less frequently used by through traffic. Today it is easy and satisfying to walk the length of Hazratganj starting at the old Coffee House corner and going right up to the entrance to the Residency. It takes

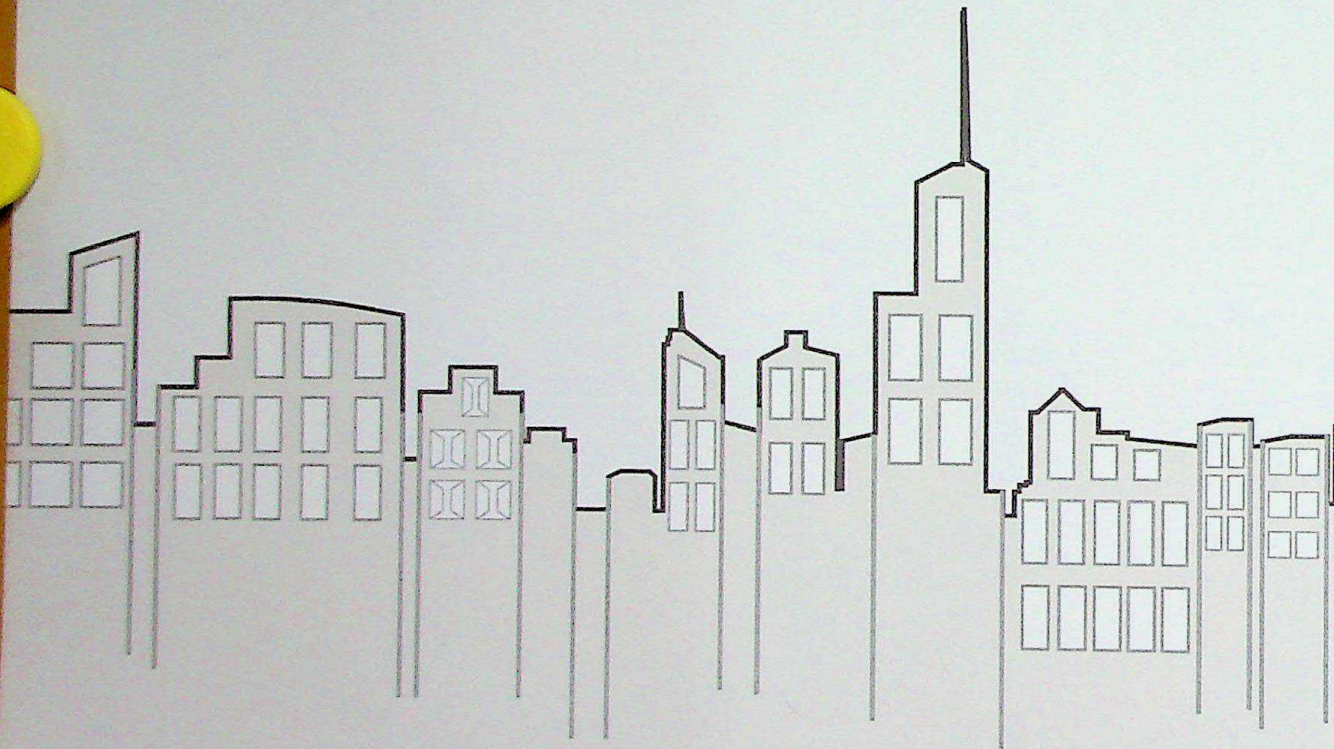
about thirty minutes. The road is not paved all the way – perhaps that might happen in the future, and what a splendid sight it would be if it did – but I think Saadat Ali Khan would still recognise his 'European' road and be pleased that after two hundred years Hazratganj is in good shape.

*Political events
changed the face of
Lucknow for ever.
A new road was
built, branching off
from Hazratganj
where the
Tulsi Complex
stands today*

1. Michael Fisher *A Clash of Cultures: Awadh, the British and the Mughals* (Delhi: Manohar, 1987) p63
2. See the small painting of the Nawab on horseback in the Hussainabad Picture Gallery. The artist is unknown.
3. Alfred Spencer, ed. *Memoirs of William Hickey* (London: Hurst & Blackett, Ltd, 1925) 4 Vols. Vol iv, pp178-179
4. Thomas Twining *Travels in India a Hundred Years Ago*. (London: Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.) p308
5. Sita Ram's water colours are in the British Library, London.
6. Walter Hamilton *The East India Gazetteer containing Descriptions of Hindustan* (London, 1828) 2 Vols. vol ii p131
7. Bishop Reginald Heber *Narrative of a Journey through the Upper Provinces of India from Calcutta to Bombay 1824-1825* 2 Vols. vol i p386
8. Thomas Lumsden *A Journey from Merut in India to London.... during the Years 1819 and 1820* (London, 1822) p10
9. A.C. Bose *Hazrat Wajid Ali Shah King of Oudh* (Belgachia, 1962) pp42-43
10. *ibid*, pp42-43
11. *The Englishman & Military Chronicle* (newspaper) 27 June 1856. Kolkata Newspaper Library, Esplanade, Kolkata.
12. *Foreign Political Consultations* 14 August 1847, Nos. 128-129. National Archives, Delhi
13. *Times of India* 3 December 2010
14. *op. cit.* A.C. Bose p43

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Some of the people
lived near the
Begum Kothi
during the life time
of Amjad Ali Shah
and the population
increased after the
demise of the king
and this place
came to be known
as Hazratganj
after the name of
Hazrat Amjad
Ali Shah

The Nawabi Period

By Roshan Taqui

Hazratganj, the small habitation on the eastern side of Hazratbagh, was described in the nazool revenue records as the property of the Nawab Amjad Ali Shah stretching from Ramna Nur Bakhsh to Kothi Hayat Bakhsh. This is the area of Hazratbagh.¹ Abdul Halim Sharar wrote: 'Towards the outside of east gate of Qaisarbagh were two high walls, beyond which lived Ali Naqi Khan and then Chini Bazar; after this bazar was the gate of Hazratbagh'.²

Actually from Chini Bazar upto some distance was open land called Ramna, the end of which was the start of Hazratbagh. Rizvi and Bhatnagar also clarified that: 'Pass the open court in front of the gate called the Jilau Khana or place where the royal processions used to form up and prepare to start from and turning to the right through a gateway covered by a screen, cross the Chini Bagh and going under a gate flanked by green mermaids we come to the Hazratbagh'.³

the small-time business community left for other places because of the imposition of *tehibazari* system, and the construction of a long wide road from the Residency to Hazratbagh was started. The area was disturbed, trading in Khas Bazaar dismantled and movement restricted. Shaida Begum was very much moved and depressed from the incidents of March 13, 1856 to October 28, 1857.

During the reign of Amjad Ali Shah (1842-47), his son Mirza Mohammad Wajid Ali, afterwards to be known as Wajid Ali Shah, spent his life in Hazratbagh as heir apparent. One of the buildings in Hazratbagh separated from the others, was furnished and new curtains hung in the rooms. Famous singers, instrumentalists and prostitutes (*tawaifs*) were then employed to prepare an opera (*Raas-Lila* or *Rahas*) based on the life of Lord Krishna. The employed singers and prostitutes were named as *pari* and the building as *Parikhana*.⁵ The opera *Qissa Radha Kanhaiya* was staged in Hazratbagh and became so popular that the public started symbolising Wajid Ali as 'Krishna Kanhaiya' or 'Kanhaiya', a personality to be loved and respected as per Hindu mythology. The Qaisarbagh palace was not in existence at this time.

On the other hand, during the British relief operation of 1857, one of the three contingents of East India Company forces penetrated into the city from the east. Describing a gateway to enter into the city, William Howard Russell said, 'we are but in a few minutes in the Imambara and then passing through a very lofty and indeed magnificent gateway from the principal court, we find ourselves actually in Hazratganj'.⁶

Hazratbagh had been enclosed by two lofty and magnificent gates and an area from *Ramna* (near Kothi Nur Bakhsh) to somewhere near Kothi Hayat Bakhsh. Confusion, however, prevailed about Hazratbagh and Hazratganj, which was on east side and a part of Hazratbagh enclosed with high walls. In fact two words 'gunj' and 'pur' were used during the medieval period for habitations; *gunj*, originally an Arabic word used for a small habitation while *pur*, a Persian word, is used for bigger and larger ones. Some of the people lived near the Begum Kothi during the life time of Amjad Ali Shah and the population increased after the demise of the king and this place came to be known as Hazratganj after the name of Hazrat Amjad Ali Shah.

The Lucknow census report also threw light on the area. The first census of Lucknow was carried out in 1856 and the report published in an Urdu weekly paper *Tilism-i-Lakhnau* in a series starting from March 20, 1857 to May 1, 1857, every Friday in six consecutive numbers.⁷ It mentions the name of places under *thanas* (police stations) like Chini Bazar, around



Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

The Begum Kothi and mosque
in March 1858. Note the
barricades and ditch. Felice
Beato, the photographer, was
standing on what is today's
Vidhan Sabha Marg

Shaida Begum, one of the wives of the Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was in communication with her husband who was in Fort William prison in Calcutta, wrote to the king on October 28, 1857, that: 'Lucknow which was graced by you and your ancestors has been badly destroyed. Hazratbagh has also been destroyed and there is no place left in its original shape'.⁴

It is clear that the reshaping of Hazratbagh was started just after annexation; the poor people started shifting from here;

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Hazratbagh. There is no mention of a *thana* at Hazratganj, these were the localities:

- On the North : Tara Kothi, Khurshid Manzil, Moti Mahal, Chiraiya Jheel, Palton Ghat etc.
- On the West : Ramna Shahi, Chini Bazar, Khas Bazar etc.
- On the South : Shifa Khana (Darul Shifa), Baraf Khana etc.
- On the East : Kothi Hayat Bakhsh, purwa Nawab ud daula (i.e karbala Ali Naqi Khan), Narahi, Danka Khana etc.

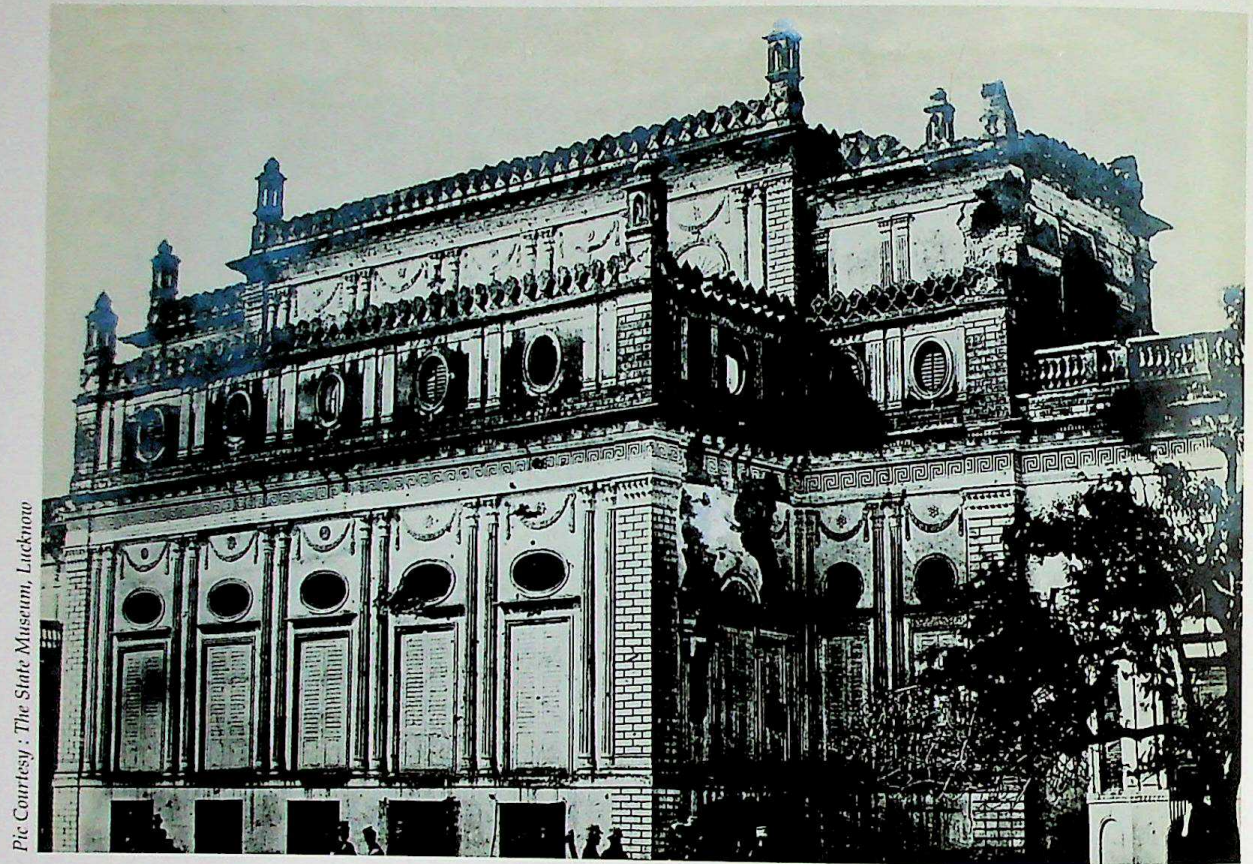
Ahata is another word generally used in the language of Lucknow for an enclosed area with a small habitation where

Shah stands here now. After his death on February 13, 1847 he was buried here and a temporary canopy erected over his grave. Wajid Ali Shah ordered the construction of a mausoleum over his father's grave and named it the Imambara Sibtainabad. He spent rupees ten lakh on the construction.⁸ In the survey report of 1871 the area was still named as the Imambara Sibtainabad and Serai Mendu Khan.

The main architecture of this imambara was copied from the Asafi Imambara by the architect Husain Ali Khan. There are two very gracious and lofty gates to enter into; but not at a great distance from each other like the gates of the Asafi

The Begum Kothi after its recapture by the British

Wajid Ali Shah ordered the construction of a mausoleum over his father's grave and named it the Imambara Sibtainabad. He spent rupees ten lakh on the construction. In the survey report of 1871 the area was still named as the Imambara Sibtainabad and Serai Mendu Khan



Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

the attendants and maid servants of an important person lived; for example Ahata Sulaiman Qadar, Ahata Malka Gaiti etc. The census report of 1856 also used the word Ahata Malka Ahad near Begum Kothi; where the workers and attendants of Malka Ahad Begum Taj Ara lived.

It is now clear that between the *Ramna* near Kothi Nur Bakhsh and Kothi Hayat Bakhsh was Hazratbagh, and Hazratganj was part of it. Hazrat Amjad Ali Shah erected Begum Kothi here for his first wife and hence the small area was known as Hazratganj.

As the census survey report of 1856 and revenue records of the Lucknow Nazool Office show, there were eight habitations in Hazratbagh; the first was Chhowni Mendu Khan, where a small contingent of the Awadh army was posted for the security of the royal families. The mausoleum of Amjad Ali

Imambara. The main building is placed on an eight feet high platform overlooking open land and a tank of water. There are two big halls in the centre of the building, with square rooms on the right and left wings and then the main imambara on a raised platform where *zarhi* is placed in the period of Moharram. The grave of Amjad Ali Shah is not precisely visible though its outline is sketched over the probable place. There were two *mahalserai* at the two corners of the mausoleum, a *haman* (bathroom) on the east and the kitchen on the west. This mausoleum and connected buildings was declared as *nazool* property in 1862 and as a Protected Monument in 1919. In 1924 the two great gates and adjacent buildings were also declared as protected. The Nazool Office allotted 66 side rooms round the courtyard to the families of their liking, mainly Anglo-Indians. A few of them are still

living here for more than eighty years. After Independence the Directorate of Agriculture and the census office procured possession of the two main halls before leaving for their own buildings. Using this opportunity Chandrawati Tewari got the main building allotted in her name and took possession of it. She in turn authorised a furniture company to establish a business here. A steel-moulding furniture factory ran out of here for more than 35 years before the imambara was handed over to the Waqf Board.

After passing other buildings of Hazratbagh, there was Begum Kothi in Hazratganj. This was the range of buildings, lining the road, constructed by Nawab Amjad Ali Shah. The three-storeyed building was a replica of the Daulat Khana-e-Asafi and spread over an area of 2 *bighas* and 10 *biswa* with *jamun* and *kathal* trees all around. Darul Shifa, the hospital built by Nawab Nasir-ud-din Haider for the allopathic system of medicinal development, was made part of Hazratganj. A royal mosque was on the east side (which still exists) and an imambara (now the Civil Hospital) and *toshakhana* were also the part of the Begum Kothi. The main building was enclosed by innumerable courts with the large and commodious central hall. Viewing it from a distance it looked picturesque.⁹ The boundary wall of the *kothi* bore the brunt of bombardment by enemy forces on March 10-11, 1858 as the result of stiff opposition of the Indian forces.¹⁰

"The penetration of the city had begun properly on March 10 with the bombardment and assault of the Begum Kothi. Sir Colin Campbell reckoned that this was the sternest struggle which occurred during the siege. The walls had been breached in two places, a small and determined band of about 700 barricaded themselves in the dark rooms around the various courtyards and inflicted some sixty to seventy casualties before being blown up or shot through the roofs. Many were burnt alive and their flesh emitted a nauseating bluish vapour as it cracked and roasted in its own fat."¹¹

Captain William Hodson, the officer in charge, was then ordered to move forward and clear the *kothi* of the rebels. Thomas Rice Holmes, writing about the rebellion in 1888 called Captain Hodson, the most notorious looter in the whole army, whose arrival on the target was being adjudged by the Resaldar General Barkat Ahmad. As he dashed into the dark hall of the main compound of Begum Kothi, sabre in one hand and rifle in the other he staggered back, shot through the liver and fell down on the ground.¹² He was moved to Kothi Hayat Bakhsh in a critical condition where he died.

In short, the boundary wall and a portion of the Begum Kothi was razed to clear the passage for an assessment of the building. The whole area, including Begum Kothi, was declared *nuzool* property. The main building became a guest house for Europeans and a tennis court was built. On the east side the buildings were allotted to Munshi Newal Kishore who happened to be here in 1859. A General Post Office functioned here for a long time before the transfer to its present building. The main building of the Begum Kothi was demolished in 1977 in order to erect the mighty Janpath Market. Now there are neither the remains of the Begum Kothi

nor any memorial to Captain Hodson. The non-protected tomb of a son of Amjad Ali Shah, just to the west of the Begum Kothi still exists, but it is encroached upon.

On the east side of Hazratganj was situated the Karbala Agha Mir, built by the one time chief minister of Nawab Ghazi-ud-din Haider and his successor Nawab Nasir-ud-din Haider. It was composed of many courts, of which the principal one was the Imambara: 'It is a grand hall, three rooms deep; and on the two sides are smaller rooms. The *zanana* mansion is opposite the Imambarah and has a court of rooms and halls on four sides and a wooden pavilion on a raised platform in the centre. High walls surround the roof all around.'¹³

Spread over an area of 12 *bighas* and 10 *biswa* the karbala had four turrets on four sides with the usual stairs inside. Ali Naqi Khan, the chief minister of Wajid Ali Shah, confiscated the land, and therefore the area came to be known as Karbala Ali Naqi Khan. He was buried here on his death and bad luck for him that he had no solace even in his grave; a covered tennis court has been built over his grave.

The karbala was handed over on April 16, 1860 to Sehat-ud-daula Hakim Mirza Mehdi, who had been the teacher of Mirza Sikandar Hashmat, the king's younger brother. It was again declared as *nuzool* property in the report of Munshi Karamat Husain the *nuzool darogha* (superintendent). Two domes, a mosque, gate and boundary wall fell down in 1884.¹⁴ Now, the karbala no longer exists, only a *Jadu Ghar* (house of magic) marks its recognition.

Hazratganj, Wajid Ali Shah and his Qaisarbagh

Hazratganj and Qaisarbagh both have links with the name of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah who spent his youth in Hazratganj, his kingship in Qaisarbagh while his mother lived in the Begum Kothi. Although built with much fanfare, the king's

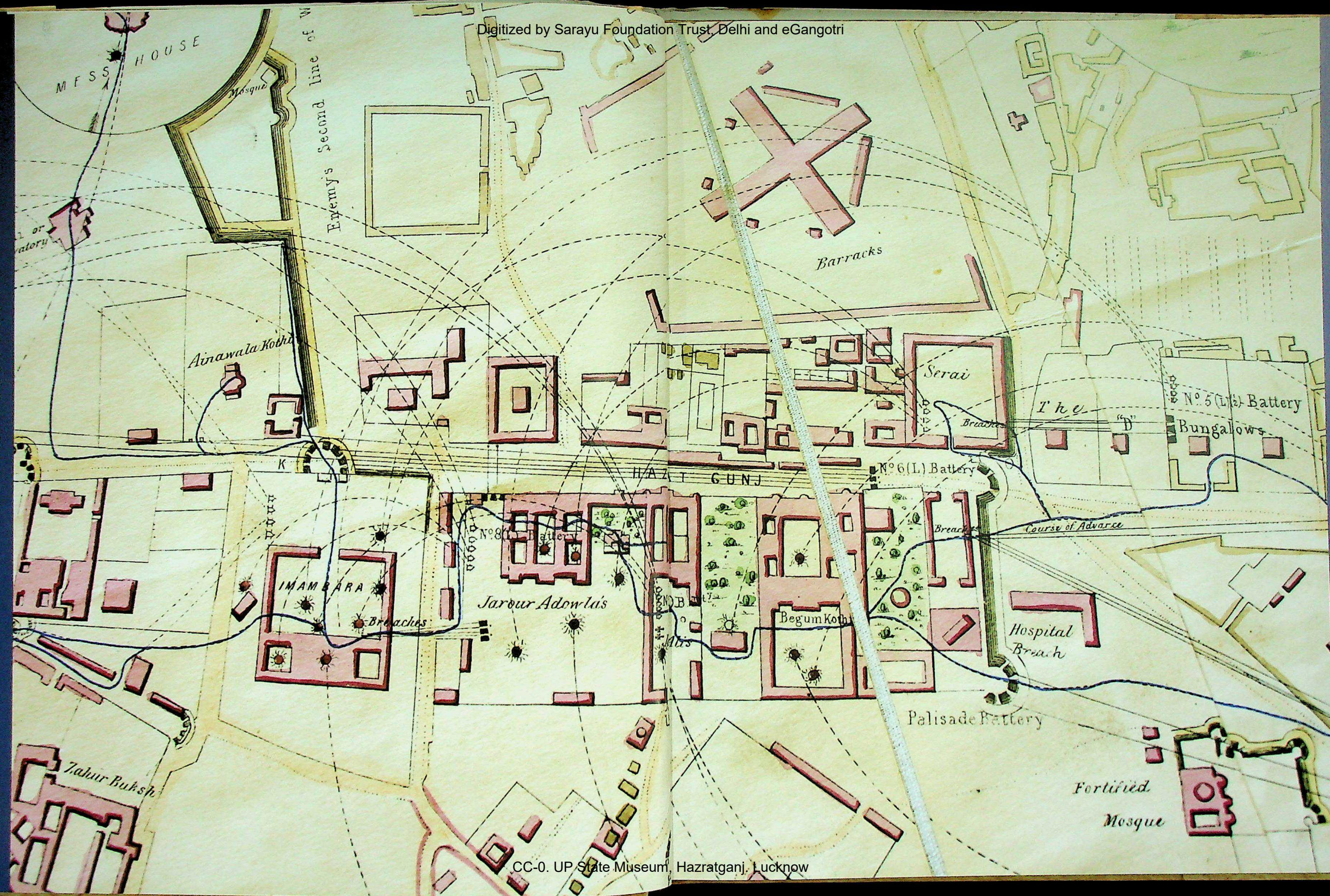
The main building became a guest house for Europeans and a tennis court was built. On the east side the buildings were allotted to Munshi Newal Kishore who happened to be here in 1859

Assault on the Chhatar Manzil



Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

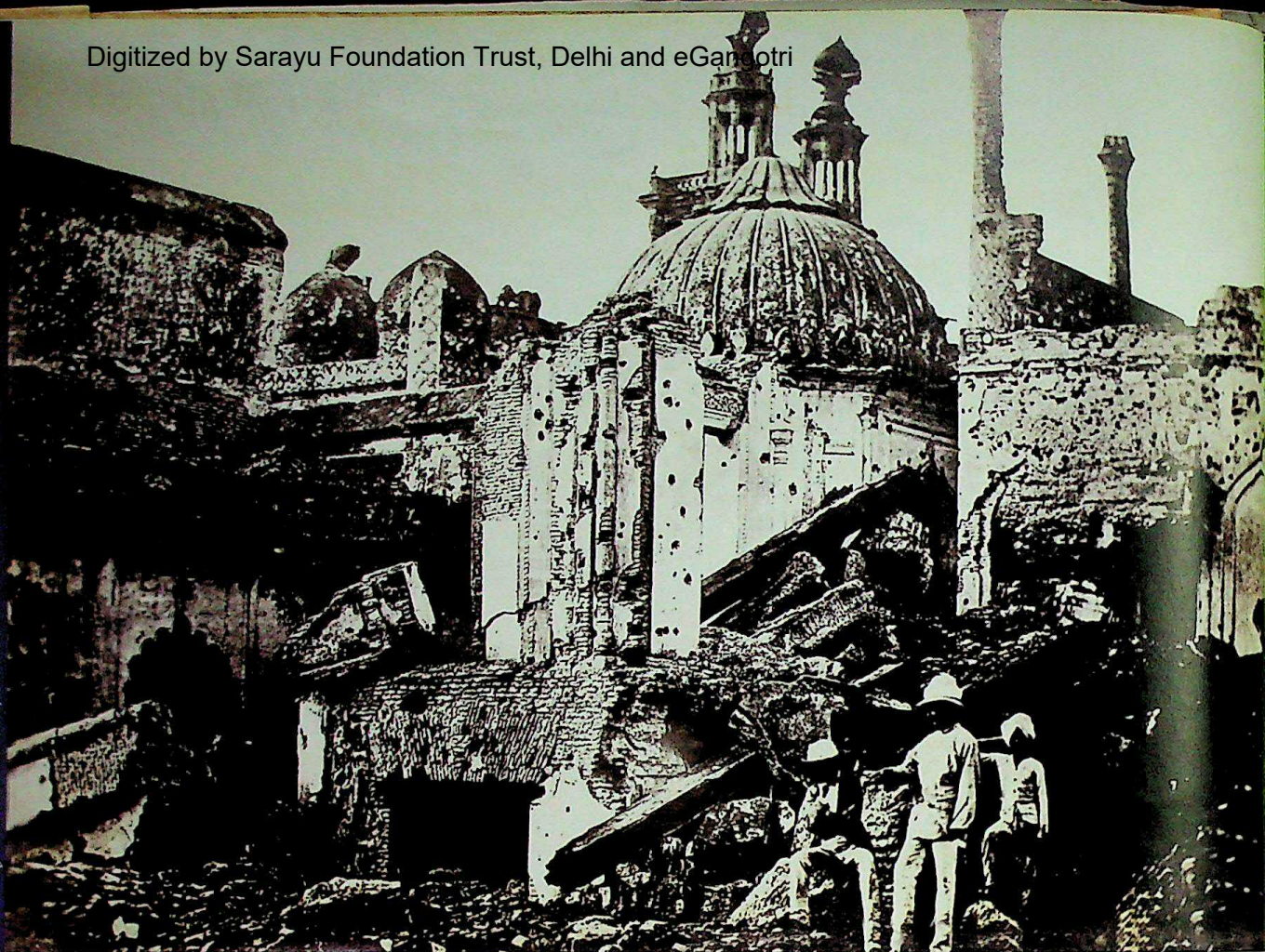
Large scale map showing Sir Colin Campbell's advance through Hazratganj on 14 March 1858. The blue lines show how the British troops punched their way through compound walls and buildings. Reproduced by the kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Harewood and Trustees of the Harewood House Trust



➤
Ruined buildings in the
Chhatar Manzil complex, looking
towards Qaisarbagh

*Hazratganj and
Qaisarbagh both
have links with the
name of Nawab
Wajid Ali Shah
who spent his
youth in
Hazratganj, his
kingship in
Qaisarbagh while
his mother lived in
the Begum Kothi*

Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow



occupancy in the Qaisarbagh palace was very brief and bad times befell him here.

Wajid Ali Shah ascended the throne on February 13, 1847 and moved to his newly constructed Qaisarbagh Palace in 1851. The last phase of the Nawabi period adorned the city with more felicitated and architecturally excellent palaces. Qaisarbagh is one of these palaces. It was constructed between 1848 and 1851 under the supervision of Ahmad Ali Khan, a well known architect, designer and photographer of his time. The palace was famous for its architectural beauty and its secrecy as very few visitors were allowed inside; as a result both written and visual accounts describing life in the palace during the king's occupancy are rare. A character with the name of Elihu Jan was created to tell of the stories taken place in the palace.

The palace consisted of Badshah Manzil, Dar-e-daulat, the gate of which was on the west and near the Sher Darwaza (Neill's Gate), where Colonel Neill was killed, then the Jilau Khana, Tosha Khana on the north and Rahas Manzil on the north east. The *zenana* portion was a very large parallelogram, *Rehaisht gah-e-naib* (the residence of chief minister), Lanka Kothi, a picturesque-looking double pavilion on the south, which was the stage for *rahas* (dramas) and *jalsa* (mushaira).

Here three dramas, namely *Darya-e-Tashhuq* (1851), *Afsana-e-Ishq* (1852), and *Bahr-e-ulfat* (1853), written and directed by Wajid Ali Shah were staged.¹⁵ After the king fell ill all such activities came to a halt. In the seventh year of his rule (1854), Qasrulbuka (the white barahdari), the house of mourning, was erected by the king. It was covered by silver sheets as against the common practice of copper sheet coverings of cupolas and *minars*. The silver sheets were removed during the looting of Qaisarbagh by the British and their allies.

The entertainments made the king very popular among the masses. The subjects were happy and life was easy-going; food grains were cheaper in comparison to the last fifty years.¹⁶ The wages of labourers in urban area were sufficient for them to lead a comparatively fair life.¹⁷ Tranquillity prevailed in the dominion save for one or two incidents and the crime rate was not high in comparison to other states.

As per the policies of the Company Bahadur¹⁸ William Sleeman, the British Resident in Lucknow, carried out a survey and submitted his report on 'A journey through the kingdom of Oudh' to Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General. Taking cognisance of the report, Dalhousie appointed James Outram to take stock of the situation and to act accordingly. He joined at Lucknow on December 4, 1854 as Resident of the



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*Wajid Ali Shah
ordered his troops
not to fire a single
bullet because
retaliation from
the enemy side
might have caused
much more damage
to the life and
property of
the people*

Pic Courtesy: The State Museum, Lucknow

Company Bahadur. He prepared a case against the king showing the worsening condition of law and order and the unpopularity of the government.

Finally, Awadh was annexed to British territory on February 7, 1856. The news of annexation spread like wildfire. The people of Awadh were deeply moved by the fact that 'the English came and took the country'. On the day of Thursday February 7, 1856, the city was uneasy; citizens of Lucknow even in small lanes and roads were waiting for the direction of struggle; most of them were collected from Khas Bazaar to Baillie Guard.¹⁹

Wajid Ali Shah ordered his troops not to fire a single bullet because retaliation from the enemy side might have caused much more damage to the life and property of the people. He flatly refused to sign any agreement with the Company Bahadur because his subjects' lives and property were more important than the throne of Awadh in his opinion. After thirty-four days of disagreement with the Company, the king, along with two of his wives and three sons, his mother Malika Kishwar and brother Mirza Sikandar Hashmat left Lucknow on Wednesday March 13, 1856 riding in a Bad-e-Bahari (carriage) His poetic instinct was still alive. Addressing his subjects for the last time he recited:

*Doston shad raho tumko khuda ko saunpa,
Hamne apne dil-e-nazuk ko jafa ko saunpa.
Qaisarbagh jo hai usko saba ko saunpa,
Dar-o-diwar pe hasrat se nazar karte hain,
Khush raho ahle watan hum to safar karte hain.*

[O friends be happy, God will take care of you, I am submitted to the unfaithful, the environment would take care of Qaisarbagh, looking on with unfulfilled desire, O my compatriots I take your leave.]

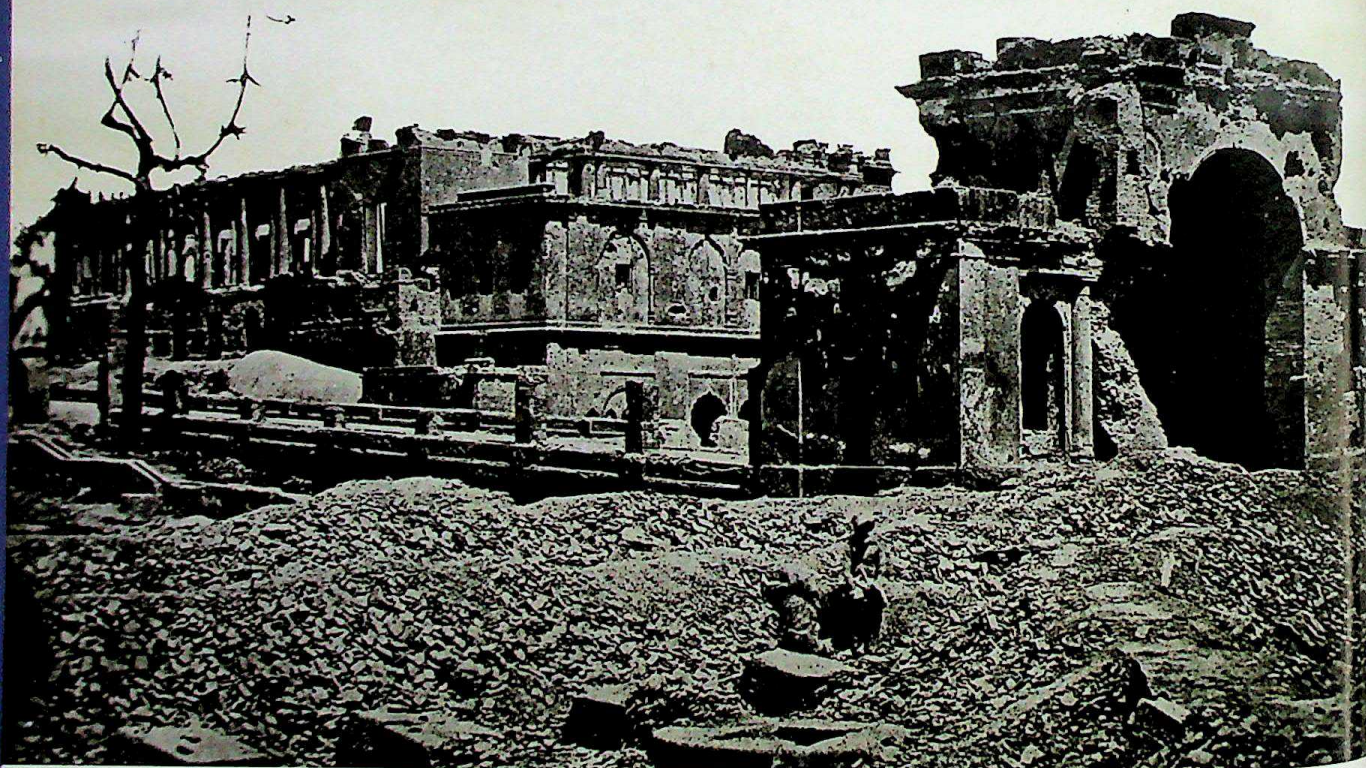
Describing the departure of king, his close relative Agha Hajju Sharaf Lucknowi wrote-

*Kaha Badshah ne sawari mangao
Hawa se chale tez baghli mangao
Brandon ne tayyar keen baghlian
Jo mangwain woh la ke deen baghlian.*²⁰

[The King asked for a carriage which goes faster than wind, Brandon (an Englishman) arranged that carriage.]

*Hua shahar men ghul sawari chali
Gulistan se Bad-e-Bahari chali
Qalaq se zamane ka dam ghut gaya
Khudawand se jab watan chat gaya.*²¹

[The procession started on a noisy note, the Bad-e-Bahari carriage left the rose-garden; everybody was depressed and



►
The British Residency in 1858 - complete devastation. The Baillie Guard gateway (right), and looking towards the Banqueting Hall (left)

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

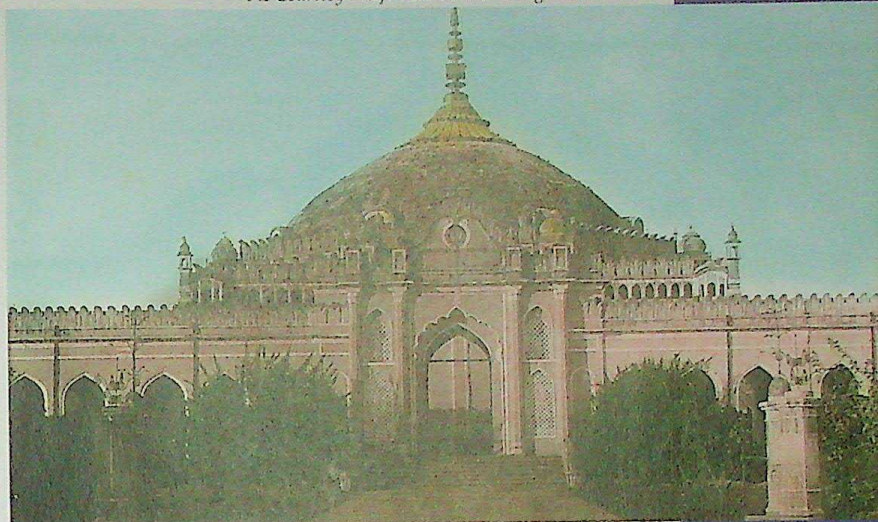
lamenting when king left his native land.]

Another description says 'The condition of the town, without any exaggeration was such that it appeared, that on the departure of Jaan-e-Alam [the king] the life has gone out of body and the body of this town has been left lifeless... there was no street or market and house which did not wail out the cry of agony of separation from Jaan-e-Alam.'²²

Wajid Ali Shah left mournful Lucknow in the hope of coming back, but he never returned although people kept waiting for him for years. At first it was thought the king would return and innocent Lucknowites were still waiting for 'Akhtar pia', as he was also known, but all in vain.²³ The disbanded army soldiers were pensioned off and not reinstated in their jobs. Sensing the brewing dissension the new English administration started bracing itself for its security and safety. The area from Khas Bazaar to the British Residency was opened up; thickly populated areas at the north gate of Qaisarbagh and near the tomb of Saadat Ali Khan were then cleared of their legal occupants. Inayatbagh, near the Residency, was forcefully vacated and small *qahwa khana*s (coffee houses) on the old Cawnpore Road were razed. Major John Sherbrooke Banks, the new Commissioner for Lucknow, took over the Kothi Hayat Bakhsh.

After the pre-storm silence of fourteen months, revolt broke out in Lucknow. On May 3, 1857 the native infantry, stationed in the Mariaon cantonment became mutinous and the regimental doctor's quarters were destroyed by incendiaries. These were the men who first uttered defiance and fired the first shot.²⁴ The first war of independence started. Agha Mirza Kambalposh, an ex-army officer raised the banner of revolt. He was arrested and hanged. The news spread like wildfire and engulfed the whole city. Sensing the clouds looming large, the British officers blew up the magazine in the Machhi Bhawan to stop it falling into Indian hands.²⁵

Two big battles were fought on Lucknow soil and skirmishes took place all year long. The first battle was fought on June 30, 1857 at Ismailganj near Chinhut and the Indian forces won. The English retreated to the Residency where they were besieged by Indian forces. A British relief force entered the Residency on September 25, 1857, after fierce opposition, was but was too weak to fight its way out of the city. The siege



▲ The Shah Najaf, scene of fierce fighting in 1858

was not lifted until November 17, 1857 after a stronger British contingent fought its way to the Residency and evacuated its inmates.

A small British contingent were stationed in the Alambagh, south of the city, and although they were attacked on several occasions during the winter of 1857/58, they could not be dislodged. In March 1858 the second war was fought in which Indians suffered heavy casualties and lost everything. But the result was the same as that predicted by Wajid Ali Shah at the time of departure from Lucknow.

*Na ki jung per ba wujooahat-e-chand
bayan main karoon tum se ai arjumand
agar jang karta to dus saal tak,
magar akherash thee shikast-o-hatak.²⁶*

[There were certain reasons to avoid any direct fight, that I tell you my friends. I could have fought for ten years but the result would have only been defeat and disappointment.]

When the din and dust of the second war had settled, Lucknow was a city of death and silence. The terrified inhabitants had fled to the country side and the streets were empty, save for domestic fowls, pariah dogs and a few old women. In the palaces and pleasure gardens vultures gorged on decomposing corpses and the blue sky was smudged with smoke. The city's essential spirit of frivolity and leisure had gone. The king, the court, the spendthrifts, the patrons of music and men of letters did not return; the quality of life, soldiery, culture and art that they had nourished and that had made the city a centre of beauty, bravery and architecture, languished beyond resuscitation.²⁷ Lucknow was lost in every manner.

The British attitude, as confirmed by the secret correspondence was stated in a letter from Secretary for the Chief Commissioner of Awadh to the Governor General:

'Had Delhi been levelled it would have been well. A stroke like that would have been a beacon and a warning to the whole of India, and a very heavy blow to the Mohamedan religion. But the Chief Commissioner sees no reason why that fate

*The area from
Khas Bazaar to the
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areas at the north
gate of Qaisarbagh
and near the tomb
of Saadat Ali Khan
were then cleared
of their legal
occupants*

◀ Qadam Rasul, captured and subsequently used as a powder magazine by the British



Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

The tomb of Saadat Ali Khan in
the Qaisarbagh complex

Consequently the
southern portion of
Qaisarbagh,
including the wall
and free-standing
buildings were
demolished; one
part of the
Chaulakhi palace
razed and the
Lanka Kothi with
its adjourning
colonnades
disappeared

Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow



should not befall Lucknow... the Chief Commissioner would sacrifice Lucknow in which sepoy and Mohamedan atrocity has not fallen short of that perpetrated at the capital of the house of Timour. At all events, only such buildings should be preserved as may be requisite for our own military or other purposes. No mosque – no temple should be spared. The Chief Commissioner would not desecrate them but he would destroy them or at least declare them to be the absolute property of Government to be dealt with hereafter as we may deem proper.²⁸

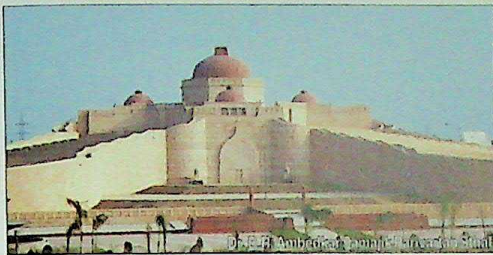
Therefore, the Jilau Khana at Qaisarbagh was razed. The Secretary to the Governor General of India in his reply letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Lucknow said, 'As to buildings in Lucknow, the only one that I think it might be well to level to the ground is the Kaiser Baug [Qaisarbagh] because that is the palace where our chief enemies have resided during the rebellion and whence they have issued their proclamations and orders against us.'²⁹

Consequently the southern portion of Qaisarbagh, including the wall and free-standing buildings were demolished; one part of the Chaulakhi palace razed and the Lanka Kothi with its adjourning colonnades disappeared. A cut-through road was built from the north gate of Qaisarbagh to the south: the *dargah* near Khas Bazar was pulled down, except for the Sher Darwaza (Neill's Gate), where Colonel James Neill was killed on September 25, 1857.

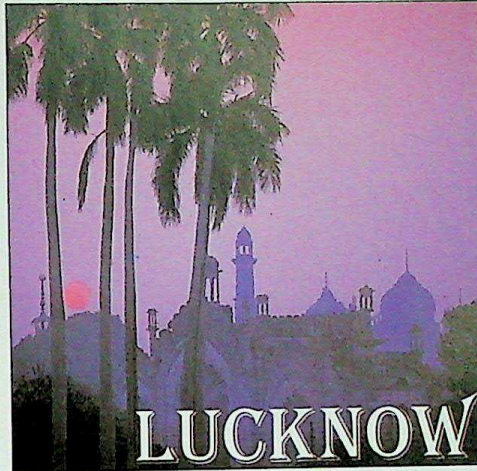
Purna Chandra Mukherji, who lived in Golaganj wrote: 'As

the spirit of vandalism is not yet extinct, the edifices, which have historical association or otherwise any architectural pretension, are gradually transformed into debris and ruins.'³⁰ The poet Naheef wrote: 'What more can be mentioned about the destruction of the city, except that it was a paradise on earth, which is now worse than hell; everywhere deserted and a city of silence'.

The palaces of kings and beggars' houses were excavated; saints and preachers were not spared and even the house of God was razed. From Aminabad to Shah Najaf and Baillie Guard to Roomi Gate, there was only desert-like open land. There would have been no houses left in the centre and north of the city. All the main markets of Ardali Bazar, Khyaligunj, Ismailganj, Golaganj, Sitahti, Nabahra, Meena Bazaar, Makanya Tola, Shekhan Darwaza, Kagazi Tola, Chandi Bazaar, and Johri Bazaar were demolished and levelled. The grand palaces of Haider Bagh, Husn Bagh and Machhi Bhawan, the Kothi of Lala Gulzari Mal Khazanchi and other beautiful buildings and royal palaces except one or two were destroyed. In short two thirds of the city was demolished. The calculation is very simple. The first census of Lucknow had been carried out in 1856 and results published in 1857 in *Tilism-i-Lakhnau*. According to the census, ten lakh people inhabited 383 localities.³¹ After the demolitions the population was reduced to 3,68,977 in 295 localities by 1871. Almost 88 localities vanished and the population was reduced by 62 per cent.³²



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Hazratganj during British Rule

After taking control of the city, the new rulers started changing the old establishment. The whole area, right from Kothi Hayat Bakhsh³³ to Chhatar Manzil was under Hazratganj and became *muzool* property. The ground was levelled and access roads from all the sides were made. When the Dilkusha Kothi was found to need repair, it was dismantled. The auction of palaces was started and several of them were purchased by Siraj ud daula. Badshahbagh which has been laid out at a cost of 53 lakhs of rupees under the supervision of Raja Bakhtawar Singh, was now purchased by Raja Kapoorthala for Rs 35,000. He decorated and repaired it according to his own taste. Kothi Dilaram was also sold. Qaisarbagh was distributed amongst the rajas and taluqdars. The Chaulakhi Kothi which was purchased by Sultan-e-Alam against a payment of four lakhs of rupees from Azam ud daulah (Azeamulla Khan) was sold to Sahji for just Rs 12,000.³⁴ The four walls of the Begum Kothi were removed as these hindered the flow of fresh air. King George's Park was established in Hazratganj.³⁵ The habitation near Kothi Hayat Bakhsh was dismantled and a recreation club was erected. On the debris of Karbala Ali Naqi Khan a new park was carved out in 1859 which became the Prince of Wales Zoological Garden. A new but small market was established in Hazratganj to give it the look of a business centre.

Many kutcha (mud) dwellings were demolished and a number of churches erected with great ceremony. A Freemason's Hall was also constructed. The Mirza Kothi near Moti Mahal was dismantled to establish the piers of a bridge. Moti Mahal whose pearl-like tomb was destroyed by bombardment, was allotted for a girls' school in 1869, on the initiative of Mrs Abbott, wife of the Deputy Commissioner. Its gates remained intact till 1880. In 1871 the school transferred to Khurshid Manzil and later became La Martiniere Girls School.

The Rasad Khana-e-Shahi (Taronwali Kothi or Royal Observatory) remained as a guest house for Europeans. In 1879 it was made over to the Bank of Bengal and later, by agreement, the State Bank of India purchased the building and 18 *bighas* of prime land on May 13, 1889 for the sum of Rs. 45,000. The State Bank of India is still here though much of the original building has been adapted to the requirements of the Bank functions. 'Due to extension of the roads in width and digging of most of the localities, the city became quite open and even the intensity of the diseases did not remain as it were before.'³⁶

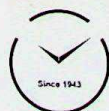
After two hundred years Hazratganj has again changed for a better tomorrow, the memoirs of older people are pouring in and they hope for a beautiful, clean and youthful Hazratganj.

Qaisarbagh was distributed amongst the rajas and taluqdars. The Chaulakhi Kothi which was purchased by Sultan-e-Alam against a payment of four lakhs of rupees from Azam ud daulah (Azeamulla Khan) was sold to Sahji for just Rs 12,000

1. Now Hazratganj is a big area from Kothi Hayat Bakhsh in the east to Chhatar Manzil in the west, Sikanderabagh in the north to the Royal Hotel in the south.
2. Abdul Halim Sharar *Guzishta Lucknow* (New Delhi: Maktaba Jamia Ltd, 1982) p102
3. S.A.A. Rizvi, and M.L. Bhargava, *Freedom Struggle in Uttar Pradesh: Source Material* 6 vols. Vol ii (Lucknow: Information Department, Uttar Pradesh 1958) p642
4. Mufti Intzammullah Shahabadi *Begumat-e-Awadh ke Khutoot*, (Delhi: n.p 1947) p111
5. Wajid Ali Shah *Mahal Khana-e-Shahi* Translated: Fida Ali Khanjari (Lucknow: Nami Press: 1926) pp48-53
6. William Howard Russell *My Indian Mutiny Diary* (edited Michael Edwardes) (London: Cassell & Co, 1957) pp97-99
7. *Tilism-i-Lakhnau* a weekly periodical published from Firangi Mahal, Lucknow.
8. G.D. Bhatnagar *Awadh under Wajid Ali Shah* (Varanasi: Bharatiya Vidya Prakashan, 1968) p84
9. P.C. Mookherjee *The Pictorial Lucknow Reprint* (Delhi: Asian Educational Services 2003) p238
10. John Pemble *The Raj, The Indian Mutiny and The Kingdom of Oudh, 1801-1859* (Hassocks, U.K. The Harvester Press, 1977) p194
11. *ibid*: p227
12. Roshan Taqui *Lucknow 1857: The Two Wars at Lucknow - The Dusk of an Era* (Lucknow, New Royal Book Co., 2001) p256
13. *op.cit*: G.D. Bhatnagar, p239
14. Agha Medhi *Tarikh-e-Lakhnavi* (Karachi: Qutub Printers and Publishers Ltd, Karachi 1976) p317
15. Masood Hasan Rizvi *Urdu Drama aur Stage* (Lucknow: Kitab Nagar 1969) p158-620
16. *Gazetteer of the Province of Oudh 1877*. Reprint (Delhi: Low Priced Publications 1993) p327
17. *op.cit*: Roshan Taqui. p10
18. Bahadur is a word used by the nobility and royal society to give their utmost honour to the East India Company as a whole and the Governor General and the Resident as individuals.
19. *op.cit*: Abdul Halim Sharar p13
20. Agha Hajju Sharaf Lakhnavi *Afsana-e-Lucknow* ed S.M.H Naqvi (Delhi: S.S. Offset Press 1985) p19
21. *ibid*. p20
22. Kamal-ud-din Haider *Qaisar-ut-Tawarikh* Vol 2 (Lucknow: Newal Kishore Press 1879) p2.
23. 'Akhtar pia' - the poetic name of Wajid Ali Shah.
24. *op.cit*: Kamal-ud-din Haider p10
25. P.J.O. Taylor *A Star Shall Fall* (Delhi, Indus, 1993) pp167-168
26. Wajid Ali Shah *Huzn-e-Akhtar* (Calcutta: Maktaba-e-Sultani 1877) p21
27. *op.cit*: P.J.O. Taylor-P-139
28. Rosie Llewellyn-Jones *A Fatal Friendship, the Nawabs, the British and the City of Lucknow* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1985) p193
29. *ibid*. p194
30. *op.cit*: P.C. Mookherjee p212
31. *op.cit*. *Tilism* February 1857 to May 1857. Also for calculation of population see Roshan Taqui, ed. *Images of Lucknow* (Lucknow: Royal Book Co, 2005) pp10-38
32. *op.cit*. *Gazetteer* p348
33. It was a two storied building on a 10 foot raised platform, constructed by Saadat Ali Khan, with a thatched roof on the first floor.
34. Hamid Afaq Qureshi *Qaisar-ut-Tawarikh of Kamal ud din Haider 1857 Classics* (Translation) Vol II (Lucknow: New Royal Book Company 2008) pp127-128
35. Where the Mahatma Gandhi Park is now, near the General Post Office.
36. *op.cit*. Hamid Afaq Qureshi p129



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Invention of Civil Lines

By Saleem Kidwai

Most of the buildings along this two-mile stretch were built by Saadat Ali Khan whose architectural tastes inclined to the European, hence the street was already 'foreign in appearance'

Of all their colonies, it was only in India that the British developed the idea of a municipally defined 'civil lines'. Perhaps this was because only in India were they confronted by old and sophisticated urban cultures that they experienced as overwhelming. The British needed to demarcate urban areas which would clearly bear their stamp, where they could develop an urban culture they could fully control. These areas naturally became the seat not only of political and administrative power but also of civic and cultural institutions.

It is not at all surprising that in Lucknow the place that became the core of the new city was Hazratganj. Most of the buildings along this two-mile stretch were built by Saadat Ali Khan whose architectural tastes inclined to the European, hence the street was already 'foreign in appearance.'

The events of 1857-58 so quickly followed annexation in 1856 that the East India Company had little time to develop a blueprint for the new city. Once control over the city was re-secured, the instruments of control had to be put in place immediately and Hazratganj was the logical space to locate

them. It was the most recent extension of the city and much less densely populated than other areas; also, there were many Nawabi buildings to appropriate and use. Since it had been the scene of some of the most stubborn resistance it must also have seemed the right place to incorporate permanent memorials for Britishers who had died in 1857-58. To stress British control over Awadh the grand palaces of the last six Nawabs were used as bases of colonial power or places for the new rulers to rule from or entertain themselves in.

Hazratganj in 1856

What was Hazratganj like just before the Uprising of 1857? At the western end, just below the Residency, was the palace complex which in 1856 consisted of Qaisarbagh linked to Chhatar Manzil. This extensive complex stretched from the bank of the Gomti to Ghasiyari Mandi in the south. Moving east from this palace complex along the northern side of the main Hazratganj road, the first important building would have been the Taronwali Kothi and just behind it the Khurshid Manzil. Further east was

Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow



Carriages outside the Lal Barahdari - probably at the durbar held there on October 26, 1858, by the Viceroy Lord Canning



Bank's Bungalow in 1858. The first Chief Commissioner, Major John Sherbrooke Banks, established his office in Kothi Hayat Bakhsh in 1856, then a thatched bungalow

Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

the Ainonwali Kothi and then the Kankarwali Kothi. Since Shah Najaf Road was laid post-1858, the grounds of the Kankarwali Kothi would have been contiguous to the cross-shaped Chaupar Stables which spread out towards the current Ashok Marg. The area occupied by these stables was enormous so it was also contiguous to Khurshid Manzil. Facing the road, within these grounds, was a grain mandi around the place where the twentieth century *kotwali* stood until its recent demolition.

To the south, across the road from the stables was the Begum Kothi complex. This collection of buildings included the Hayat Bakhsh Kothi, the Kothi Inayat Sultan, a Shahi Mosque, and the building that currently houses the Divisional Railway Manager's office. There were other structures too which no longer exist – this complex stretched from what is now the Raj Bhawan right up to the Mayfair building. The Darul Shifa was a part of this complex.

At this point a road leads east to Lalbagh, where many residences, mosques and imambaras of the nawabi aristocracy were located. The area from here up to Quinton Road (now Valmiki Marg) was occupied by the Sibtainabad Imambara. West beyond this up to Chini Bazaar was a stretch of land predominantly occupied by Nur Bakhsh Kothi, with the Zahoor Bakhsh Kothi behind it. The Chini Bazaar west of it is now marked only by one gate.

E. H. Hilton, who was a student at La Martiniere in 1856, had sought refuge in the Residency and had been involved in its defence, wrote a popular guide to Lucknow. He remembers the space between Nur Bakhsh Kothi and the Chhatar Manzil as a mass of 'lofty houses.' An earlier visitor had described the 'Cheeni ka Bazaar' as being of 'considerable length with neat ranges of shops on each

side, all of the same height and having piazzas along their whole front.'²

Also in Hazratganj were a series of river-front buildings which formed the Moti Mahal complex. Next to this was the Shah Najaf Imambara, opposite it a cemetery, and further east the Sikanderbagh complex.

British Triumph

The four and a half months' siege and a failed attempt to relieve it traumatised the British. It was only natural that their wrath would fall on the city, and Hazratganj felt its fair share of it once the British regained control in March 1858. The most visible sign of this, apart from mass public executions, was the large-scale demolition and urban re-ordering that followed.³

In Hazratganj, the Chhatar Manzil and Qaisarbagh palace complexes bore the full brunt of the destruction. New wide radial roads were laid down. One of them ran from Machhi Bhawan through Hazratganj. The Strand⁴ cut through the Chhatar Manzil complex, separating the Bara Chhatar Manzil and Farhat Bakhsh from the Chhota Chhatar Manzil, the Gulistan-i-Iram, the Darshan Bilas and Lal Baradari. Llewellyn-Jones notes that the 'town planners,' had unwittingly restored the straight line of Saadat Ali Khan's great Hazratganj road, which had been diverted by later additions to Chhatar Manzil palace.⁵

Two other roads which are now major arteries through Hazratganj were laid post-1858. One was Abbott Road, now known as Vidhan Sabha Marg, up to the Capitol Theatre crossing which continued northwards as Outram Road, now known as Ashok Marg. Cutting through it near the Sikanderbagh crossing was Clyde Road, now Rana Pratap Marg. Another road, the Shah Najaf Road, was

Two other roads which are now major arteries through Hazratganj were laid post-1858. One was Abbott Road, now known as Vidhan Sabha Marg, up to the Capitol Theatre crossing which continued northwards as Outram Road, now known as Ashok Marg

Allahabad Bank in Celebration of Hazratganj's heritage



Nawab Saadat Ali Khan

A crossroad of time

Hazratganj, the main shopping centre in downtown Lucknow, has completed 200 years of its existence. In 1810, Saadat Ali Khan, the first Nawab of Awadh, laid the foundation stone of the 2-km. long stretch which was later named after Nawab Amzad Ali Shah, also known as Hazrat, who reigned from 1842 to 1847. The place has retained its past grandeur in Kothi Noor Baksh, Regal Theatre, Mayfair Picture Hall and the Coffee House. It also houses modern showrooms, retail stores, Govt. Emporiums and multi-storied malls besides a host of restaurants and coffee shops. The place is a favourite not only for the connoisseur hunting for the fine Chikankari work of Lucknow but also for the next generation youth who looks for the latest gadgets at its Naza Market. In fact, the term 'Ganjing' has been coined exclusively to describe walking along Hazratganj.

Allahabad Bank in Hazratganj

Allahabad Bank has a long association with Hazratganj. Established in the holy city of Allahabad on 24 April, 1865, this oldest Joint Stock Bank of the country opened one of its earliest Branches at Hazratganj in 1889.

In its long journey spanning over 3 centuries, the Bank has witnessed many political and economic upheavals. In fact its history is inextricably interwoven with the history of our country – the freedom struggle culminating in Independence in 1947, the nation-building exercises of the new Government, nationalisation of banks in 1969, implementation of various poverty- alleviation programmes, liberalisation of economy in 1992 and the impact of the financial meltdown of 2008. The Bank has today grown into a premier nationalised Bank with 2419 CBS Branches across the country and one overseas Branch at Hong Kong and a dedicated workforce of more than 22000 people.

As on 30.06.2011, the Bank's business crossed ₹ 2,32,000 crore with over 26 million customers who can now avail of banking facilities of 'Anywhere Banking', Mobile Banking, Internet Banking, SMS Banking etc. Thanks to the trust and confidence its customers have reposed in the Bank, the Bank has won many laurels, the last being the First Prize in MSE lending for 2009-10 awarded by the Government of India.

Allahabad Bank is proud to be a part of the heritage of Hazratganj. Besides the Lucknow Main Branch (Hazratganj

Branch), the Bank has a number of important Offices at Hazratganj including the Zonal Office, the Field General Manager's Office, the Field Inspection Office and the Industrial Finance Branch. Allahabad Bank which blends heritage with modernity congratulates all the people of Lucknow on the occasion of their celebrating 200 years of Hazratganj's existence and looks forward to a stronger bonding with the people of Lucknow.

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Major expansions and alterations were made in 1907 when 'Bank's Bungalow' became the residence for the Provincial Governor and was renamed Government House. After independence it became Raj Bhawan

Newal Kishore was another Indian who was allowed to buy land very early on. He bought property all over Hazratganj, including the Kothi Inayat Sultan in the Begum Kothi Complex and part of the Moti Mahal complex, to accommodate his growing publishing empire

The Victoria Memorial was constructed in 1908. The statue of Queen Victoria was removed by government order in 1957 and is now housed in the Foreign Statues Gallery in the State Museum

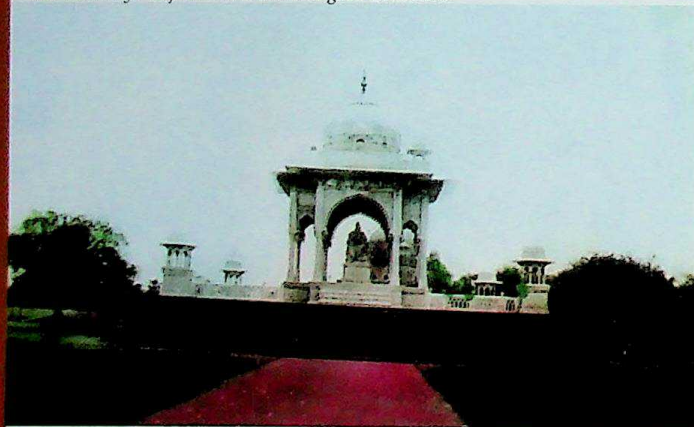
Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow



created parallel to Outram Road/Ashok Marg, connecting Hazratganj in a straight line to the Shah Najaf Imambara. Linking these two roads, Lawrence Road (now Newal Kishore Marg) and Oliver Road (now Sapru Marg) were laid, parallel to Hazratganj. Similarly, smaller roads were laid in Lalbagh, dividing Nur Bakhsh Kothi from Zahoor Bakhsh Kothi, for instance. These smaller roads like the Wala Qadar Road continued to be created right into the twentieth century because they made it easier to split up large properties and make many smaller allotments on long-term leases, and also allowed easier access to government and court buildings.

Accompanying the road-building were extensive demolitions. Though Hazratganj did not see demolition on the scale that the old city did, yet the palace complexes suffered considerably. Some idea of the demolitions can be obtained by close scrutiny of a photograph, 'Looking west towards the Chhatar Manzil,' taken by Samuel Bourne in 1864-65.⁶ The picture is taken from the east, from behind Sher Darwaza. In the foreground, south of Sher Darwaza, are hastily constructed new buildings with what look like kitchen gardens in their compounds demarcated by neat

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



fences, where earlier 'a labyrinth of tiny streets and alleys wove around the rickety houses; crazy steps led to pools of stagnant water'.⁷ In the background is the Chhatar Manzil complex, including the Farhat Bakhsh the Bara and Chhota Chhatar Manzils, and the Lal Baradari. The centre of the photograph is occupied by acres of obviously recently levelled grounds, neat, clean and bare, with a number of tents, perhaps for the supervisors of this landscaping project, still in place. The lofty nawabi buildings and maze of walled areas and imambaras that occupied this space have been razed to the ground.⁸ Soon there would be hectic building activity here by Europeans constructing residences on their newly allotted plots.

The appropriated land was given out on long term leases to people trusted by the new government. Most of these originally were Britishers who were later allowed to sell to Indians. Within a few decades these properties were resold to taluqadars and business magnates who had adjusted to the new political dispensation and were able to invest in the boom in the urban market. One example is Badshah Manzil. This is the place, between the Oudh Gymkhana Club and the Chini Gate, where, in 1856, General Outram informed Wajid Ali Shah of his impending deposition. By 1916 this was being used as a private residence known as Topwali Kothi. Later it was sold to a taluqadar and then split into smaller lots and resold. Similarly, the father of the novelist Attia Hosain rented a house located in the vicinity of the Post Master General's office before he bought the property across the road.⁹

Very few Indians were granted the favour of buying up nawabi property soon after 1858. Among the few who were considered worthy of this privilege was the Maharaja of Balrampur who, among other properties, bought a part of the Moti Mahal complex. Newal Kishore was another Indian who was allowed to buy land very early on. He bought property all over Hazratganj, including the Kothi

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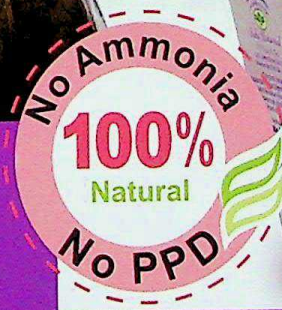
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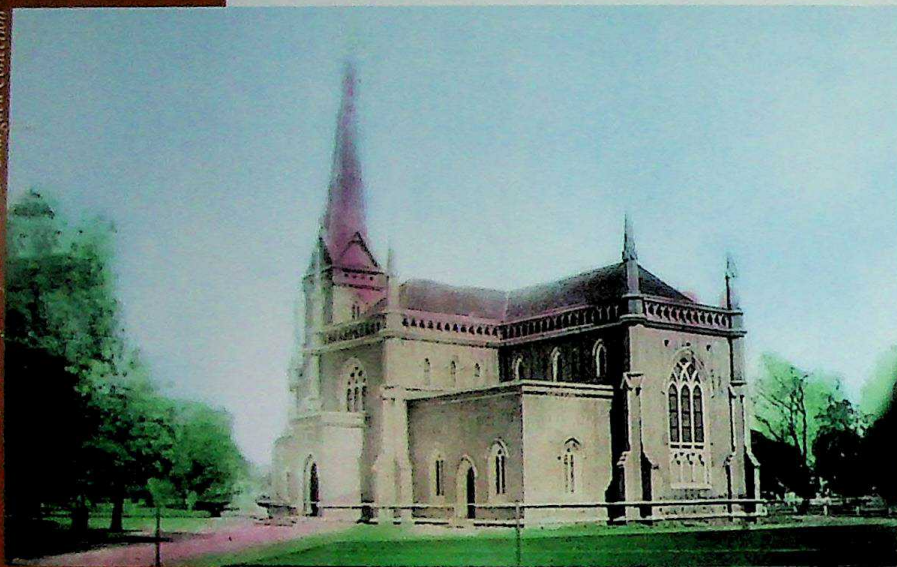
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Immediately after retaking Lucknow, the British replaced churches destroyed during 1857-58. For the Anglicans, Christ Church was built and was ready by 1860

Pic Courtesy: Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



The desire to pay homage to Europeans killed in the ghadar was an important formative sentiment in the early years of Hazratganj

► Khurshid Manzil was used as the Mess house for the 32nd Regiment by the British after the annexation in 1856. La Martiniere Girls School was established here in 1871

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Inayat Sultan in the Begum Kothi Complex and part of the Moti Mahal complex, to accommodate his growing publishing empire.¹⁰ Kothi Inayat Sultan became the office of the *Awadh Akhbar* while he built his own house with a clock tower in Hazratganj. He set up his printing press and opened a retail outlet, the Newal Kishore Book Depot, in Hazratganj.

and Fateh Ali, who were held responsible for these killings, were executed nearby on October 1, 1859. Much later, a statue of Raja Jai Singh, proclaiming him a nationalist hero, was installed, overshadowing the obelisk.

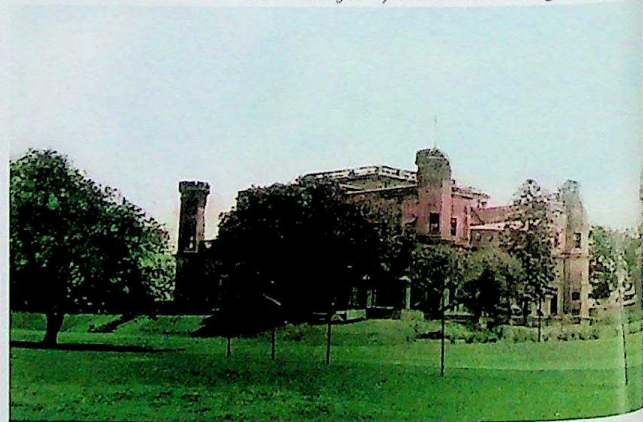
Roads were named after Havelock and Outram who had led attempts to relieve the siege; residential areas and a road were named after Lawrence who had defended the Residency; and the Chief Commissioner's house and the road behind it were named after Banks who not only had been Commissioner of Lucknow himself but had also died during the siege of the Residency. Sher Darwaza was saved from demolition because Brigadier General Neill had died from a shot fired in its vicinity; it was renamed Neill's Gate. It is now a protected monument. Half a century later, a marble statue of Queen Victoria was erected in the park between Chhatar Manzil and Qaisarbagh.¹¹ The marble canopy that housed the statue still remains though the statue itself has gone and the park is now named to commemorate Begum Hazrat Mahal.

Later, a memorial was built for King George V, east of the General Post Office. The two notable features of this memorial are that the King is supposed to have posed for his statue, and that the canopy over it was designed by Walter Burley Griffin who introduced the Art Deco style into Lucknow's architectural landscape by designing, among other things, the Capitol Theatre just across from the statue.

Churches

Churches had to be built immediately after the Rebellion. The three destroyed during the Rebellion had been rather modest; much larger and grander ones were now built not only to accommodate more worshippers but also symbolically to emphasize the religion of the new rulers. Although the colonial government's state policy was to keep a distance from the Church, their bias is evident in the way they helped Christians of all denominations to build churches as well as to establish other institutions. The way property in Hazratganj changed hands is the best indicator of this bias.

Pic Courtesy: Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

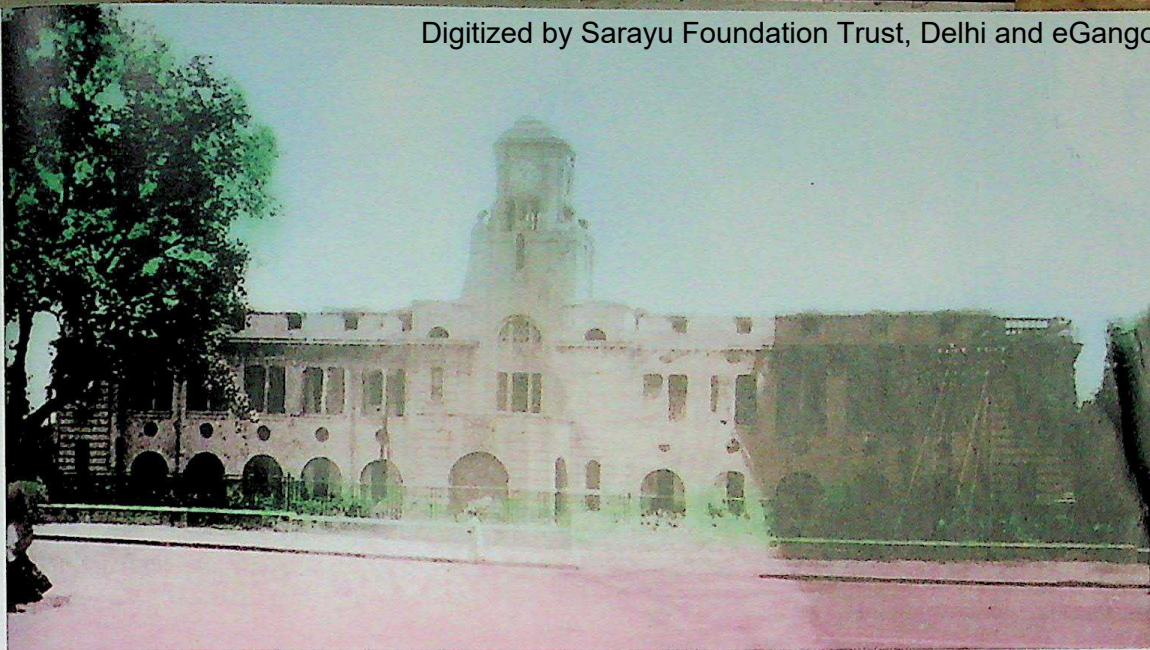


After the annexation of Awadh in 1856, the Chief Commissioner of Lucknow was installed in Hayat Bakhsh Kothi (Major John Sherbrooke Banks deliberately chose to live and work here, because he wanted to make a symbolic break with the Residency) and the 32nd regiment was temporarily stationed in the Chaupar Stables and Khurshid Manzil, both in Hazratganj. The officers used Khurshid Manzil as their mess. Two mosques in the grounds were converted into a residence of the platoon Commander and a store house respectively. After 1858 when the soldiers were moved to a newly built cantonment at Dilkusha, the east and west wings of the stables were demolished to create low-cost accommodation for Europeans or Anglo-Indians; the building was rechristened Lawrence Terrace. A club for non-gazetted officers was constructed for the residents and both mosques were destroyed. Abbott Road was driven through a part of Begum Kothi complex.

Memorials

The desire to pay homage to Europeans killed in the *ghadar* was an important formative sentiment in the early years of Hazratganj. A memorial obelisk was built for a group of Britishers near the spot where they were killed, between Chini Gate and Taronwali Kothi. This obelisk still exists at the narrow end of the park opposite Tulsi Cinema complex, west of the petrol station. Raja Jai Singh, Bande Hussain

H A Z R A T G A N J : A J O U R N E Y T H R O U G H T H E T I M E S
CC-0. UP State Museum, Hazratganj, Lucknow



Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

Office of the Post Master General. It was built on the site of the old Amononwali Kothi, the residence of the Superintendent of the Nawabi Observatory

Since the Anglican church in the Residency had been destroyed, the immediate solution was simple. As has happened throughout history, the victors used the sacred spaces of the vanquished for their own worship. Unsurprisingly, the place chosen was not only of religious significance to the Shias but also the tomb of the Nawab whose son had been deposed to enable annexation. Services were held at the Sibtainabad Imambara every Thursday between 1858 and 1860, one of which was attended by Governor General Canning himself.

The Anglican church, Christ Church, was the first major architectural project undertaken in the civil lines. It was meant to honour those who had fallen in the Rebellion and hence was also known as Martyrs' Memorial Church. Commemorative brass plaques for people killed in 1857-58 were placed inside the church and even the pulpit was dedicated to a soldier who had fallen at the spot where the church stood. The task of building it was entrusted to the Royal Engineers. It cost Rs. 60,000 to build; the government bore part of the expenses. Bishop Cotton consecrated the church on November 26, 1860. It was enlarged in 1904 and again in 1916. The cross on the steeple used to face towards Hazratganj market but a storm in 1933 caused it to face the General Post Office.

Roman Catholics were also given land to build a church in place of the chapel destroyed in Qaisarbagh. This too was a memorial church and was completed in 1862. Some of the penal fines levied on the city of Lucknow were given for the construction of this church. It is believed that it was opposite the Divisional Railway Manager's office.¹² When it was discovered that the church foundations were not strong enough it was razed in 1863 and a new church built at the present location. This was completed in 1868; much later, it was replaced by a church of more contemporary

design. When Mayfair Cinema was to be built facing the church some felt it was inappropriate and proposed that it be built facing on to Lalbagh Road, notionally distancing it from the church. The argument was countered by citing the example of the Prince of Wales Cinema, earlier built close to a mosque, so Mayfair was allowed to have its façade facing the main street.

The Lalbagh Native Methodist Church was built there in 1866 and could accommodate 2,000 people. Very close to it, in 1877, the English Methodist Church was built opposite Daya Nidhi Park and next to Nur Manzil. The Zahoor Bakhsh Kothi was sold to Father Leopold of the Church Missionary Society for Rs. 33,400. A small mission church known as the Chapel of Zahoor Bakhsh was built on the site of the destroyed Zahoor Bakhsh Imambara. In November 1875 the foundation of the Epiphany Church was laid and the first services were held on December 25, 1877. It cost Rs. 15,000 to build. It now began to be known as Church of the Epiphany which was also what 'Zahoor Bakhsh' was interpreted to mean.

New Government Buildings

Many nawabi buildings were appropriated to house the new administrators and their offices. Substantial amounts of land were also appropriated as *nazool* (government property) to build imposing homes for other administrative arms of the government.

Post-1858, the Chief Commissioner continued to stay in Hayat Bakhsh Kothi though it was now called Banks' House after its late occupant. The lawn around it was landscaped in 1873. Around 1907 a major overhaul took place - the house was expanded and made grander and more European by adding a ballroom. It began to be called the Government House when it became the residence of the

*Post-1858,
the Chief
Commissioner
continued to stay
in Hayat Bakhsh
Kothi though it
was now called
Banks' House after
its late occupant*



▲
The Council House was built
between 1922 and 1928

*After their
experiences during
the siege, the new
rulers of Awadh
were very keen
that Lucknow be
on a railway line.
Cawnpore was
already connected
and a railway
office was set up in
Lucknow in 1862*

governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The Imambara of Ghulam Hussain was made into the Chief Commissioner's office.¹³

Nur Bakhsh Kothi (which is now the residence of the District Magistrate) became the Deputy Commissioner's residence. Across the road, the Kankarwali Kothi became the City Magistrate's residence. This Kothi was later destroyed and Halwasiya Court built on its site. While Harcourt Butler was Governor of the United Provinces, a large new Council House was built to match the new Government House. This was to house not just the Legislative Council but also the government secretariat. Construction was completed in 1928. Hilton mentions that before this, legislative council meetings were held in a building north of the Baradari in Qaisarbagh (which now houses Bhatkhande University).

The judicial arm of the new state continued to be concentrated in the old palace complex area. Gulistan-i-Iram was first used to house the law courts; later, a large court building was built across the road from Lal Baradari. The Tehri Kothi, which was near the Residency, was used to house the Judicial Commissioner and later the Chief Judge of the Chief Court of Awadh. Darshan Bilas was put to use as the Chief Engineer's Office. The Chhota Chhatar Manzil was occupied by the Small Causes Court, registration office and office of the Land Records and Agriculture. This building collapsed in the 1970s. Darul Shifa was used as a residence for secretaries to the government. Parts of the Moti Mahal complex were used as a Commissariat store.

The telegraph had arrived in Lucknow immediately after annexation in 1856. In 1870 a Postal Circle was created to cover Awadh. When the new Post and Telegraph Department of the United Provinces was created, a new building was built to house the office of the Post Master

General in the early decades of the twentieth century, while Begum Kothi was used as the General Post Office till 1932 when it shifted to an impressive new building with an imposing tower.

After their experiences during the siege, the new rulers of Awadh were very keen that Lucknow be on a railway line. Cawnpore was already connected and a railway office was set up in Lucknow in 1862. The office of the Oudh & Rohilkhand Railway was housed in another grand building in the Begum Kothi complex. The first train on the Oudh & Rohilkhand railway line ran on April 23, 1867.

Schools and other Christian Institutions

The establishment of schools by various Christian missionary societies began in earnest soon after 1858. The Church Missionary Society (CMS) was first off the mark. It acquired a nine-acre property (including one of the finest houses in the city) in Lalbagh, at a throw-away price, from a financier of the former Nawabs. This became the cradle for many educational institutions and is the site of the present Emma Thompson Girls' School. Among the institutions that the site nourished was Isabella Thoburn College, one of the largest women's colleges in Asia in the early years of the twentieth century, supported by the Methodist Episcopal Church of America. Founded in 1871 as a school, it moved to the Lalbagh complex in 1886 when it grew into a college. These premises also housed the parsonage, the Deaconesses' home and Harriet Warren Hall, used for lectures and other community events. It was also a base for CMS's missionary activities, particularly their work in the medical field and among Muslim women in purdah. The Zahoor Bakhsh Kothi, which was close by, was used to house teachers and students of the Lalbagh School and Isabella Thoburn College before it gradually disappeared.

In 1872, six nuns arrived from Darjeeling at the invitation of Reverend Paul Tosy, the Catholic Bishop of Lucknow. They were welcomed at St. Joseph's Church and given accommodation on a small house on Shah Najaf Road (most probably across from St. Francis College) where they started Loreto Convent Girls' School in 1873. The school moved later to its present location. St. Francis Orphanage and School was begun in 1885 and its current building was built in 1918. In 1916 another school opened, attached to St. Joseph's Cathedral.

The Lucknow Girls' School, started by Mrs. Abbott, and housed in the Khurshid Manzil, was donated to the Governors of La Martiniere, and renamed La Martiniere Girls School (now College), after Major General Claude Martin. The government continued to be generous to the school, first giving it property which had earlier belonged to the Delhi and London Bank and then land that had formerly been part of Taronwali Kothi.

The McConaghey Free School was set up in 1878 on Cantonment Road in Lalbagh. In 1939, foundations of a

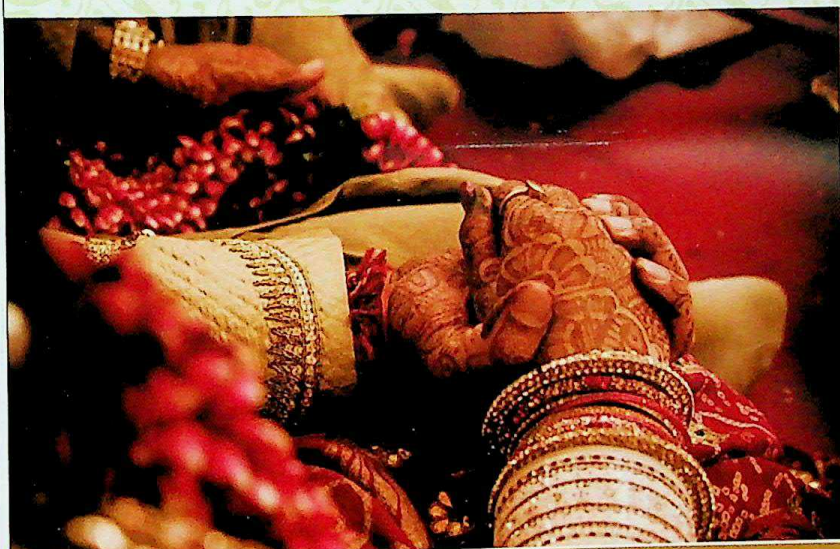
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Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



Chhatar Manzil while it was being used by the British as the United Services Club

The development of Lucknow Banks in prominent locations in Hazratganj changed the whole notion of commerce. The Delhi and London Bank, the Bank of Bengal, and Allahabad Bank were the first to appear

new building were laid at the premises of Christ Church and the school was moved there and renamed Christ Church School. Canning College began in Lalbagh in 1864 and briefly moved to the Amir-ud-daulah Palace. Later, it formed the largest branch of Lucknow University, the others being King George & Queen Mary Medical College and Isabella Thoburn College (now usually known as IT College).

Institutions of Commerce

As the administrative core of the new province, Hazratganj naturally developed into a commercial hub. Hazratganj had characteristics that distinguished it from Chowk, the nawabi commercial hub. The new shops that opened here served a clientele of mostly Europeans, Eurasians and elite Indians. The merchandise was upmarket and so was the market's appearance. Though Hazratganj continued to be an important wholesale grain market as late as 1909, its retail merchandise defined its commercial character.

The development of Lucknow Banks in prominent locations in Hazratganj changed the whole notion of commerce. The Delhi and London Bank, the Bank of Bengal, and Allahabad Bank were the first to appear. The first was situated across the road from the Sibtainabad Imambara in what is now the residence of the Habibullah family at 11 Mall Road. The safety vaults of this Bank still survive in the building. The Bank of Bengal, which, along with the other Presidency Banks of Bombay and Madras was to later become the Imperial Bank of India, was given the prime property, Taronwali Kothi. After Independence, the Imperial Bank became the State Bank of India which even today occupies these premises. Allahabad Bank was established around the turn of the

century at the eastern end of the Hazratganj main road. Central Bank was established in 1919 in the building built by Newal Kishore and continues to function there. Punjab Bank was established in 1939 and the United Bank of India in 1945.

The main Hazratganj road narrowed as commerce and traffic increased. The depth of the commercial establishments grew at the expense of the road's width. Traffic changed from horse-drawn tongas and *ekkas* to horse-drawn carriages. Drinking troughs for horses were built to indicate parking spaces for carriages. One such space was in front of the police station. When cars arrived, the first petrol station was built at the corner where Lalbagh road runs south. Once Mayfair was built next to it, the petrol station had to be shifted across the road to below Halwasiya Court. The small structure that housed it still survives as a commercial show room.

Originally Hazratganj was part of Ganesh Ganj ward and police division (*thana*) but following increased density and commercial activity, it was made into an independent ward and its own police station was built in 1909 at the site of the grain market and after demolishing a number of 'native' shops. A fire station was built close by and the Merryweather fire engine (apparently still in working condition) acquired in 1911 must have been the pride of this station.

Social Facilities

Hazratganj became the centre of civil social life and entertainment for Europeans and later for upper-class Indians. The Bara Chhatar Manzil was turned into the United Services Club with top-grade facilities for British officers. It had arrangements for lodging and fine dining and also hosted a wide variety of social activities for Britishers based in Lucknow, including films and dog shows. For non-gazetted officers in the government services the Lucknow Club was founded in the former Chaupar Stable building. Hazratganj also had chapters of the Rechabites Temperance (a branch of the Quaker Movement promoting abstinence from alcohol) and a Freemasons Lodge near the Chhatar Manzil.

In 1882 the Lucknow Public Library was started in the Lal Baradari as part of the Provincial Museum. Its nucleus consisted of the old station library that had been housed in the Chhatar Manzil. In 1910 it was shifted into the Chhota Chhatar Manzil and was renamed the Amir-ud-Daula Public Library. The Commissioner headed the committee that looked after it. It shifted to its present location in Qaisarbagh in 1926.

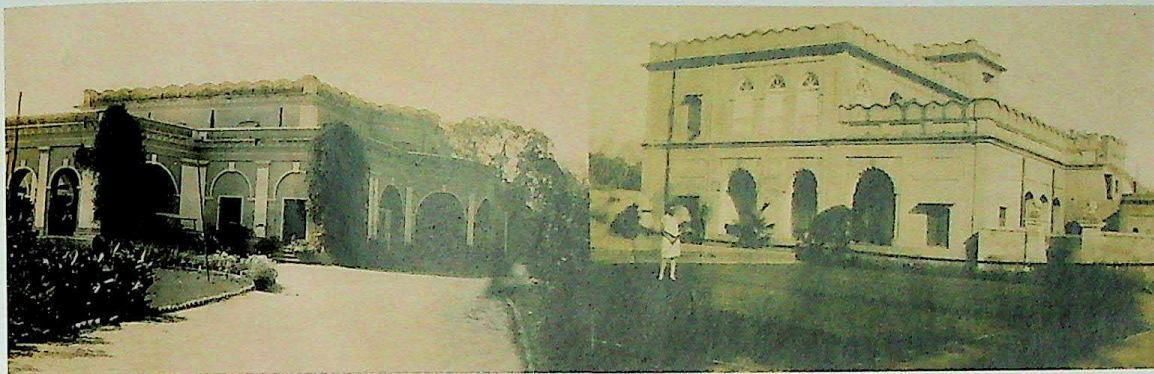
The museum was started as a municipal institution in 1863 with a nucleus of exhibits relating to archaeology and natural history. It also had a model of the Residency (now in the Residency Museum). It was located in the Lal Baradari and also used parts of the Gulistan-i-Iram. In 1883 it was developed into a Provincial Museum and taken over by the State. It was reorganised in 1911 with several additions, particularly a valuable numismatic collection.

In 1860 a 80 acre park was created out of the former nawabi Banarsi Bagh; this park, opposite the Chief Commissioner's house, was named Wingfield Park. A baradari from Qaisarbagh was dismantled and installed here. At the time of the Prince of Wales' visit in 1921, it was converted into a Zoological Park.

Wealthy citizens were encouraged to contribute to public services by paying for construction of fountains and

1857-58 as well as those presumed to have supported them was confiscated by government and declared *nazool*. At Independence, most plots in the civil lines area were *nazool* and were let out on long-term leases to people who built on them.

The high walls around the Begum Kothi were levelled as was the wide outer enclosure of Sibtainabad Imambara; shops and residential quarters were built here. One side of



Pic Courtesy : S.H. Kidwai

The house and its six-bedroom annexe built at 2 Mall Road by Shahid Hosain, the father of Attia Hosain. The novelist spent her childhood and early youth in this house. The buildings still exist

parks at various places in Hazratganj. Fountains were placed in the area between the Allahabad Bank and the Civil Dispensary, opposite the State Bank, in front of the District Magistrate's residence, in the area where the Globe Park now is, and in Lalbagh in the park between Emma Thompson School and Nur Manzil.

The Civil Dispensary was set up at the crossing where Abbott Road became Outram Road; the civil surgeon lived in a bungalow further down Outram Road. There were two veterinary hospitals in Hazratganj. A large space between Oliver Road and Clyde Road was turned into a Christian cemetery. An old age home for Eurasians, named after Dorothy, wife of Charles H. T. Crosthwaite, the Lieutenant Governor of the North West Provinces and Oudh (1877-92), was established on Outram Road.

Residential and Shopping Areas

All land belonging to those involved in the Rebellion of

each of these properties provided the impressive commercial frontal to the main Hazratganj street. Shahi Masjid (now hidden by Capitol Cinema) was shorn of most of its surrounding lands and was tucked away behind commercial buildings.

One hundred and twenty-three shops in Hazratganj which had been appropriated and declared *nuzool* were rented out to new tenants and in 1871 the Commissioner circulated a sketch as a blueprint for future shops to follow. Further orders insisted that shops be built to a uniform pattern.¹⁴

Hazratganj is thus an example of successful British invention of civil lines, founded on a layer of earlier buildings, and inherited by modern Indians. Most cities are layered over centuries; in this case, the relative recency of the violent destruction of the earlier layer allows us to reconstruct the transformation to some extent.

*The high walls
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Sibtainabad
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and residential
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1. Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, *A Fatal Friendship: The Nawabs, the British and the City of Lucknow* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1985), p186.

2. Ibid. p184

3. See Veena Talwar Oldenburg, *The Making of Colonial Lucknow, 1856-1877* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984) for an examination of British urban policy based on three main concerns: safety, sanitation and loyalty.

4. It was also referred to as the Mall and the stretch through Hazratganj was briefly referred to as Queensway. After independence Queensway in New Delhi was renamed Janpath. This did not happen in Lucknow because Queensway had dropped out of usage. However, when the new market was built at the site of Begum Kothi in the late 1970s, old memories were resurrected and it was named Janpath Market.

5. Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, ed., *Lucknow: City of Illusion* (Prestel, 2006), pp21-22

6. Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, ed., *Lucknow: City of Illusion*, Fig. 19.

7. Sidney Hay, *Historic Lucknow* (1939, reprint Rupa & Co, 2002), p205

8. For a listing of 'Lost Monuments of Lucknow,' see book by the same name by Saiyed Anwer Abbas, (Lucknow, 2009)

9. The rented house was most probably the house known as the Kothi Astro Manager. The house the young novelist lived in still exists behind the high-rise buildings of the Uttar Pradesh Co-operative bank.

10. Ulrike Stark, *An Empire of Books: The Naval Kishore Press and the Diffusion of the Printed Word in Colonial India*, (Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2007), p170

11. This along with other statues from the colonial period are now housed in the U.P. State Museum.

12. Naresh Singh, *Lucknow ke Girjaghar*, (Lucknow: Hindi Vangmay Nidhi, 2010), pp23-25

13. Today it houses the office of the Lucknow Development Authority

14. Veena Talwar Oldenburg, *The Making of Colonial Lucknow*, p120

The Advertising Story

95 years on the Ganj (1865-1960)

By Nasima Aziz

*Advertisements
may not be History
with a capital H,
but they are closer
to us than the
grander version.*

*They record
history of the
everyday, with
personal and often
heart-touching
connectivity*

Pic Courtesy : Raju Kam Kumar Bhargava Collection

Advertisements tell us so much about the cultural and social trends of the times. They gather the needs, cravings, desires and dreams of people and place them in a neat box-shaped nutshell. Looking back through time, reading old advertisements in newspapers, the shopping and socialising scene in Lucknow becomes vividly alive, real and immediate: "Yawn. Another Monday morning. 9th January 1865. Where's my tea? Let's open the paper and find out what's happening around town. Any good sales on Huzrutgunje..?"

Advertisements may not be History with a capital H, but they are closer to us than the grander version. They record history of the everyday, with personal and often heart-touching connectivity.

In 1865 Lucknow was a shattered place, the British community trying to pull itself together after the wounds

of the Rebellion.

A visual story unfolds through the advertisements: Their content describes the daily priorities of people who were trying to recreate their own world in a foreign land, and the emerging Indian elite who are hell-bent on becoming Anglicized. Their 'look' gives one the feeling of 'being there' on that morning – the early spellings, vocabulary, and erratic line breaks, then the progress from hasty simplicity to structured sophistication.

In 1947 the circle closed – the Raj was over. But the Raj lifestyle did not end with one stroke of the midnight hour. I have taken the story on to 1960 to illustrate the lingering spill-over from the Raj, and the emerging, strident confidence that was laying the foundation of the Hazratganj of today.

I would like to express my thanks to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi, for the use of their archives for research from old newspapers.



Shops of Hazratganj, c. 1920s

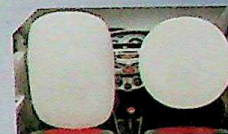
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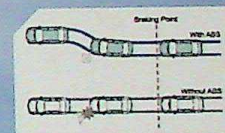
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ABS (AntiLock-Braking System) with EBD (Electronic Brake Distribution) ensures complete vehicle control and a smooth stop while braking suddenly.

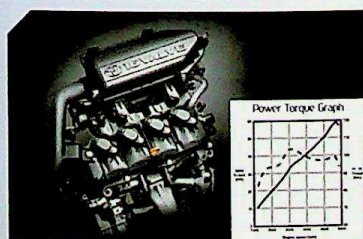


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We must go shopping

It is January 1865.

Lucknow shoppers have five choices :

To go to the latest exhibition; to place orders by mail to firms in England or their branches in Calcutta; to visit one of the large Department Stores located on the Ganj; or to buy second hand goods from people leaving India to return home to England.

First choice: Shopping at a large exhibition such as the one announced by Charles Nephew & Co. in a full page advertisement. They are selling Glass Paintings, Bronze Statues, works of Art in Gold and Silver, Emerald Bracelets, Brilliant Necklaces, Clocks and Watches, and Glass Flooring Tiles, "to enable the Native Princes and the Talookdars of Oude to judge the progress ART has made in Europe in the last 10 years."

They believe in describing each object in exquisite detail – one example is their description of The Lucknow Vase. They imply that Lucknow needs to adopt the superior European art tradition and exchange a poor pair of fish for Psyche and Cupid!

Lucknow shoppers have 5 choices: To go to the latest Exhibition; to place orders by mail to firms in England or their branches in Calcutta; to visit one of the large Department Stores located on the Ganj; or to buy second hand goods from people leaving India to return home to England

Second and third choice: Shopping via mail orders directly from firms in England, or from their branches in Calcutta.

The fourth choice is the most exciting – there is a shop called S.H. Clarke, well stocked with high class goods, right here on HUZRUTGUNGE.

In this same month a new commercial 'Agent' is appointed in Lucknow. His name is K. Murray. As the years go by his shop grows from strength to strength, selling an enormous variety of products. He is located where the LIC building is now, but later moves near Capitol Cinema, opposite the GPO.

An interesting feature of this shop is that it believes in profuse advertising, as we will see over the decades.

The fifth 'shopping option' is to buy second hand goods from people who are selling their possessions because they are 'going back home'. This is a continuing theme over the decades, and intensifies dramatically just before 1947.

January 20, 1865

UPPER INDIA COMMERCIAL ASSOCIATION LIMITED

BRANCHES

Lucknow

Mr. K. Murray ----Agent

January 9, 1865

LUCKNOW EXHIBITION

CHARLES NEPHEW & CO.

Have the honour to announce that they will open a court of FINE ARTS in the forthcoming Lucknow Exhibition, thereby enabling

THE NATIVE PRINCES AND TALOOKDARS OF OUDE

To judge of the progress ART has made in Europe during the last 10 years. Painting on Glass will be illustrated by several examples of this beautiful Art, but by one especially, viz.

THE LUCKNOW VASE

Standing 4 feet 2 inches high. In this magnificent work of Art, on the front Medallion, is a painting of Psyche, represented as a Nymph with the wings of a Butterfly, along with Cupid in the different situations described in the allegory. The happy combination of opaque and transparent Bohemian Glass has been pronounced by Connoisseurs to be a most enchanting and successful effort.

January 25, 1865

Under the patronage of His Excellency

SIR JOHN LAWRENCE

Viceroy and Governor-General of India

S.H. Clarke

2 COUNCIL HOUSE STREET, CALCUTTA

&

HUZRUTGUNGE, LUCKNOW

BEGS to inform the Public that he has just received per Ship

Star of Denmark, Renoun and Orient, a large and select Stock of undermentioned Goods, which has been carefully selected by Mr. Clarke himself.

WINES – Champagne, Moselle, Hock, Port, Sherry and Claret.

SPIRITS – Hennessy's Brandy, Old Cognac Brandy, Irish Whiskey, and Old Jamaican Rum

LIQUEURS – Cherry Brandy, Marachino, Noyeau, and Curacao.

OILMAN'S STORES – Crosse and Blackwell's Hams, Cheese and Bacon, Potted Meat, Sausages, Game Pies, Pickles, Sauces, Vinegar, Oatmeal and Barley.

JOHN MOIR & SONS – Soups and Meats, Oysters, Salmon, Lobsters, Sardines, Herrings, &c, &c

JOHN CASSELL'S – Jams, Jellies, Lozenges, Comfits, Candied Fruits, Figs, Raisins, Orange Peel &c, &c.

HUNTLEY and PALMER'S – Reading Biscuits, assorted.

PIESSE and LUBIN'S – Perfumery in great variety

RIMMEL'S – Pomades, Oil, Soap and Violet Powder

GLASS-WARE – Drawing Room Clocks, Musical Boxes, &c.

STATIONARY – Bank Account Books &c. &c.,

MILLINERY –

WOOLEN GOODS –

TABLE AND OTHER LINEN

Price List forwarded on application

Out station orders carefully and promptly executed

TERMS CASH

During the decades of the 1870s, '80s, and '90s, the British Community in Lucknow grows in number and in confidence. December 1889 sees the launch of a new Magazine called 'Anglo-India - A weekly Journal for Anglo-Indians in India'. The contents list includes: 'Some Anglo-Indian Humourists, Verandah Colloquies, That Municipality Again, Benighted Traveller, Copious Correspondence and the Latest European and Indian News.'

However, 'going back home' is a way of life, dictated by transfers, retirement or sickness, with the necessity of selling off one's possessions, for example, a lady's horse and cart, before departing on the long ocean voyage home...

November 17, 1885

A PAIR of B. C-B. MARES

14-1 high, 9 years, quiet to drive, well matched and exceedingly good-looking, are good nags for a Lady to ride or drive either on the hills or plainsRs 350

A four wheeled CART, made to order 4 months ago to suit mares; a set of HARNESS to match, also made special order. The lotRs 300

The turn-outRs 600

Cost Rs1000 five months ago, and one of the neatest in the station.

Priced low, as owner goes home sick. Apply to "L.T.", Post Office, Lucknow

June 19, 1889

**SPORTING
(ADVERTISEMENTS)
A NEW TENNIS
BALL**

For
1889
THE

"BIJLI"

TO BE HAD ONLY FROM

MURRAY & Co.**LUCKNOW**

A NEW CONSIGNMENT JUST TO
HAND

MADE on scientific principles and
of the best procurable materials.

The

"BIJLI"

Rs 2-4 per dozen

A TRIAL SOLICITED

A teacher's salary is Rs. 60 - But at Murray and Co. the price is right for the new 'Bijli' tennis balls, at two rupees and four annas per dozen.

June 21, 1889

MURRAY & Co.
DRAPERS PURVEYERS AND
GENERAL PROVIDERS,
LUCKNOW

The Firm have every
confidence in directing
particular attention to their
splendid stock of WINES and
SPIRITS as one of the finest
in the East.

MURRAY and Co.

London, Lucknow, Meerut,
Karachi, Naini Tal, Fyzabad.

HEAD OFFICE IN INDIA :

**HUZRUTGUNGE,
LUCKNOW**

December 12, 1885

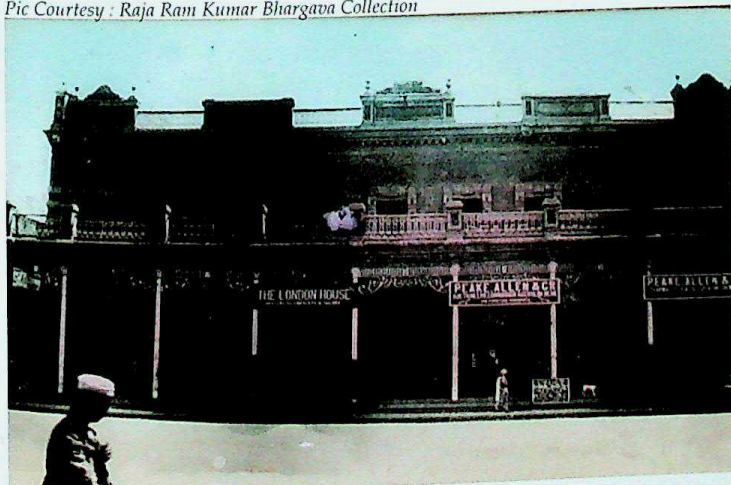
WANTED - a MASTER in the
Canning College School, Lucknow.
Must be a graduate in Science.

Salary Rs 60, and a present acting
allowance. Apply to the PRINCIPAL,
Canning College, Lucknow.

By 1889 Murray and Co. is flourishing, with branches in other cities. But its Head Office remains on Huzrutgunge. They bag the contract for supplying the Restaurant Cars and Refreshment Rooms of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways. They are selling everything, from ammunition to soap.

*During the decades
of the 1870s, '80s
and '90s the British
Community in
Lucknow grows in
number and in
confidence, but
'going back home'
is a way of life
dictated by
transfers,
retirement
or sickness*

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



A big Calcutta firm, Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co., is the Sole Direct Agent of Monkey Brand Soap imported from England. They in turn appoint Murray as their Agent in Lucknow.

But some time later Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co. come to the Ganj, next door to Murray, and they become keen rivals.

**BROOKE'S SOAP
(MONKEY BRAND)**

Agents:

Lucknow - **Murray and Co.**

Sole Direct Agents for India
**WHITEAWAY, LAIDLAW & Co.,
CALCUTTA.**

Shops of Hazratganj

The 20th Century has begun! The pace of life is picking up!

Murray and Co. are offering a 'Lightening Freezer' Ice cream making pail. Hurry and get it while the sale is on!

Up and down the Ganj traffic races along on Bicycle and Buggy.

The higher range of bicycles (Rs160-170) are the Swift, Humber, Singer and Premier Brands. The Rs. 95-150 range are the Hart, Royal England, Pioneer and English Brands. "All have free wheels, N.P. rims, Pneumatic tyres, Brakes, lamps, bells, tools &c. complete."

November 30, 1910

For Sale

(Property of an Officer)

3 H.P. Brown 1910 Motor Bicycle in new condition. *Only driven a few miles. Sold for private reasons for no defect. Price Rs 700 - Apply to :*

Oriental Motor Car Co.,
Lucknow, where machine may be seen.

February 1, 1911

Turnout For Sale in Lucknow

A Lady's Buggy with rubber tyred wheels, lamps tc. in perfect order and very comfortable and easy running.

A Brown Aus. Gelding, 14-3, eight years old, a fairly fast trapper with good mouth and manners, frequently driven by a lady; believed sound; with a set of black harness plated mounts. The turnout, Rs1,000 ---Apply **JOHN JACKSON,** 10 Outram Road, Lucknow

Buggies are of various kinds, some specially for ladies: Rallis, Cabriolettes, Trotting Cars, Ladies Cars, Gigs, Landaus, Landaulettes, Victorias, Mail Phaetons, Broughams etc., and all available right here in Lucknow: "The largest stock in India. Harness as good as English and at one-third the price." Made in the factory of Eduljee and Co., Builders and Furniture Makers, Lucknow. Motorised bicycles notch up the speed limit.

Photography is all the rage. Stumbling over their commas, G.W.LAWRIE & Co., Photo Artists, urgently advertise: "A Good Operator and Retoucher required for outstation work, must be European, hills during summer." This Ad is repeated in the summer, from Naini Tal.

January 22, 1900

Rs10 Send us any PHOTOGRAPH, and it will be returned uninjured with one of our highly-finished Platino-Bromide enlargements. 18 inches by 15 inches. mounted.

G. W. LAWRIE & Co., Lucknow

An American dentist, and Kate Allen's small business, also thrive on the Ganj...

November 3, 1910

Addresses

Dr Louis J Bischoff (D.D.S.)

AMERICAN DENTIST
HAZRATGUNJ, LUCKNOW

November 19, 1909

NOTICES

Madame Kate Allen has opened her business for the winter season in Huzratgunge, Lucknow, next door to M.S. Hathaway and Co. Dressmakers, Millinery etc. as usual. Orders executed within the shortest notice.

Madame Kate Allen. Dressmaker, Huzratgunge, Lucknow

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



The City Gospel Mission, centre

Why does Mrs Ruxton give the Mosque as her address? Who was she?

January 1, 1915

For Sale or To Let

The celebrated Shooting and Fishing Box NAUKUCHIA LODGE; 14 miles from Naini Tal; 10 miles from Kathgodam R. & K. Ry ; Good sport, furniture, garden, boat. Elevation about 4,400 ft. -----Apply **MRS RUXTON,** the Mosque Hazratgunj, Lucknow

Mr. Brown

We may have missed
on the patronage of
the Nawabs...

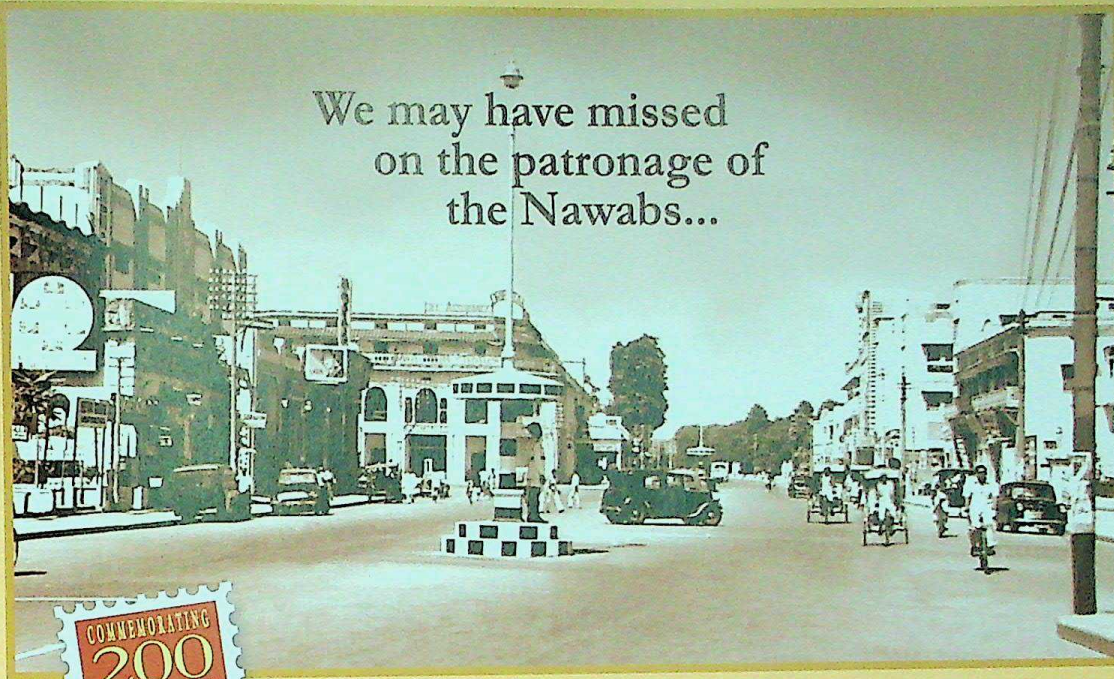


Photo : Mohd. Saadq Husain



but have impressed the
'new age' connoisseurs.

*We're happy to be the part
of the celebrations.*

LUCKNOW
B-35, Sector - P, Aliganj.
Tel : 0522- 2745239, 2763722
Dube Chambers, Sapru Marg.
Tel : 0522- 4101600, 4081600, 2201600
1/55 G, Vineet Khand, Gomti Nagar.
Tel : 0522- 2725099

KANPUR
16/12, Civil Lines
Tel : 0512-2305603, 2306019

7/89, Tilak Nagar.
Tel : 0512- 2530049

www.mrbrownbakery.com



The Italian Machines make the batter...better.
•CAKES •PASTRIES •COOKIES •SNACKS

HACCP Certified
An ISO 22000 : 2005 Certified Co.

There are European names among the British residents – the stories of their lives will remain an intriguing mystery ...

November 10, 1934

Mlle Zarianova

Continental Dancer has opened a Dancing School with Special Classes for Children. Mlle Zarinova is preparing a Children's Cabaret during Christmas Week. Apply – 9, Station Road, Lucknow

November 30, 1910

FOR LADIES – Pin Curls, Toupets, Switches and other ornamental hair work by specialists.

Fine Shampoo Powders, – the healthiest and best. Gents Fancy Costumes on hire or for sale. – From

M. RUBENSTIEN & Co.
Hair Specialists, Lucknow and Naini Tal.

December 12, 1885

HEVZOG & CO.,

Lucknow, are registering orders daily for their delicious Cakes and Confectionery.

Lucknow Society is getting organised with the help of WANTED ads. in the newspaper.

January 18, 1906

WANTED

To employ for a period of five years, to be extended by mutual consent, a Eurasian lady as governess in an Oudh Taluqdar's house.

Her permanent headquarters will be at "Kasmanda", a village in Tehsil Sidhauri, district Sitapur (Oudh). Kamalpur, R. & K.

Railway, is the nearest railway station from Kasmanda, being only three miles distant and joined by a pucca (mettalled) road.

Applications to be sent to the Inspector of Schools, Lucknow, up to 15th February 1906

The Indian elite are determined to produce English children. The sons are sent to English boarding schools at an early age. For daughters the tutoring takes place at home for which the right governess must be hired. Eurasian ladies have an advantage over others, when fluency in English, Urdu and Hindi is required

December 13, 1906

WANTED

By an English educated Hindu Taluqdar of Oudh a Governess for teaching English at his house. The lady applying must be able to explain well in Hindustani or Urdu.---Applications up to 20th December 1906 to INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS. 3rd Circle, Lucknow

Lucknow society is getting organised with the help of WANTED ads. in the newspaper – reliable servants are required and also a governess to teach English. A lady leaving India puts her entire wardrobe on sale

January 1, 1906

WANTED

Wanted – Letters for truly reliable SERVANTS whose character and fitness are vouched for.

Unexceptional references and under distinguished patronage.---

Address Mrs. E.C. GARDENER, Danesbury House, Lucknow, Oudh

This lady is leaving India and is selling her clothes, shoes, hats, and even a bundle of underclothes. Her dresses are in crepe-de-chine, taffeta, georgette, velvet and voile, trimmed with beads, feathers and embroidery. She has gowns for the afternoon, for tea, and for resting. Her winter clothes are sensible tweed and serge. Luckily she is a medium size.

Going into the 1910s, 20s and 30s, traffic on the Ganj is jostled by the latest imported models of cars.

December 6, 1919

For Sale

Lady Leaving India

1. New Navy coating serge, all wool, dress just received this mail, latest style, embroidered, very smart, half coat Rs 55.

1. Afternoon gown pale blue and white crepe-de-chine and taffeta, latest style, very smart, worn once, cost L 10, Rs 40, bargain. 1. White voile afternoon dress, embroidered, in colours, worn once, smart, Rs 35, bargain. 1. Rest or tea gown, turquoise blue, embroidered crepe de chine lined throughout silk, trimmed white feather trimming, latest model, just received, new, half cost, Rs 100. 1 Brown velvet, stitched hat, worn once, Rs.10. 1. White crepe-de-chine and georgette afternoon dress, embroidered saxe blue, and trimmed beads, just received from London, new, half price Rs 75.

1. Pr Brown willow calf brogues, size 6 Rs 15, bargain. 1. Bundle under-clothes, assorted, Rs 25.

V.P.P. No approval, genuine value, must sell. Dresses fit medium figure.---

November 2, 1914

Rover Car For Sale in Lucknow

12 H.P. Rover Touring Car, 4 seater, 1914 Colonial Model imported last month. Torpedo body Rotax dynamo, lighting, Cape hood, with side curtains, tonneau and hood covers, side horn, and Gabriel horn, speedometer, clock, mirror, luggage grid and straps, tool kit and many other accessories. Insured to September 1916. In splendid running order. Only sold as owner gone to Simla. Cost L 500 with importation at war risks. Price Rs. 6,500.

Apply, **MRS WOODYATT, Lucknow**

The Hupmobile was built from 1909 to 1940 by the Hupp Brothers Motor Company of Detroit, USA

October 29, 1924

FOR SALE

HUPMOBILE 27 H.P.

5 seater 1921 model in excellent order, five tyres (old), self starter electric light, tool box. Price Rs.5000, or offers.

---Apply **E.A.H. BLUNT**, Dar ul Shafa, Lucknow, where car may be seen from 21st October.

Shopping for books has always been very much a part of the Ganj experience.

A new book stall announces itself – we are cordially invited to browse.

June 21, 1936

New Books

EVERY MAIL brings in the latest publications of new Books. Our new premises enables you to make your choices in comfortable and harmonious surroundings. Inspection cordially invited.

THE BRITANIA BOOKSTALL,
next to Bata's, Hazratgunj,
Lucknow

New shops appear on the Ganj at regular intervals and there are apartments to rent on the first floor.

November 10, 1936

APARTMENTS TO LET

ONE LARGE ROOM in Hazratgunj facing Outram Road. Upstairs, excellent situation, well ventilated, very well lighted. Moderate rents. Inquire of

CARLTON & CO.

Bootmakers, Outram Road,
Hazratgunj, Lucknow

BEAUTIFUL HOMES

YOU can never know how beautiful your home can be till you have seen the artistic electric shades and fittings we have to offer you –

ELECTRIC TRADING CO.
36 Hazratgunj, Lucknow

Indian owners are steadily replacing English names.

July 15, 1936

BAEJEE DEOTE & Co.

GOVERNMENT COURT
AUCTIONEERS, ETC.,
HAZRATGUNJ, LUCKNOW

16 August 1936

FOR QUALITY cups, medals, Sports trophies,

engagement rings and Presentation articles, visit
MUTHRA DUTT & CO., Phone No. 522

Hazratgunj, Lucknow. Only the finest goods stocked.

1936 is an eventful year.

The big news is that King Edward VIII wants to give up his throne for the love of Mrs Simpson – controversy rages – he makes his final decision and abdicates at the end of the year.

In summer that year there are severe floods in Lucknow, but nothing deters the revellers at the Tivoli Charity Ball where men must pay a subscription of Rs.1, but ladies enter free.

Lucknow is hosting the United Provinces Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition which is drawing in the crowds. Some of the pavilions are designed by architect Walter Burley Griffin. It is a 'buyer-seller' meet, with plenty of entertainment thrown in. Miss Auzurie will undoubtedly be a crowd puller.

December 10, 1936

LUCKNOW EXHIBITION
THE PARISTAN

Carnival Ground
From Sat. 12 Dec 1936

Dances of

MISS AUZURIE

&
Songs of K.C. Dey
BLIND SINGER OF BENGAL
& OTHER ATTRACTIONS –

Advance Booking –
**U.P. Industrial and
Agricultural Exhibition,**
Lucknow

At Spencer's Café, The Worth Sisters are entertaining a different crowd. Their repertoire probably includes the hits of the year, like Bing Crosby's 'Pennies from Heaven' and Billie Holiday's 'Summertime'

December 13, 1936

The "WORTH SISTERS"
IN
CABARET

with
VINCENT CUMINE'S
MODERN
SWING ORCHESTRA
AT

SPENCER'S CAFÉ
IN THE
AMUSEMENT PARK

RADIO is at the height of its popularity and there is a shop on Hazratgunj to prove it.

'RADIO-in-INDIA' is India's New Radio Paper devoted to "interests of Radio Users and Dealers, Wireless News, views and Home Programmes. Annual Subscription Rs. 2-8 (including postage)."

December 31, 1936

PILOT RADIO
ALLWAVE WORLD WIDE

Visit our STALL No. 72

THE

U.P. Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition

THE STANDARD RADIO
CORPORATION

HAZRATGANJ, LUCKNOW

December 15, 1936

The front page of today's paper has a picture of Lord and Lady Linlithgow and headlines about their visit.

VICEROY'S VISIT TO
LUCKNOW
CITY PLAN A GREAT RECEPTION

OUDH TALUQDAR'S PARTY AT
THE BARADARI

CROWDED THREE-DAY PROGRAMME

Visit University, Medical College, Colonel Taluqdar's College, La Martinere, Child Welfare Centre and the Kinnaird and Dufferin Hospitals.

1936. Lucknow hosts the United Provinces Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, and the Viceroy comes on a visit. These days Radio is at the height of its popularity

EGYPTAIR
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Egypt
where it all begins



Follow us on:  www.twitter.com/JashnOnline

48, Hazratganj, Lucknow. Tel: 2628200

MSH Sarees Pvt. Ltd. Enterprise

Modern
SILK HOUSE
Let's you be a woman

*Celebrate
your
presence*

Jashn

Lucknow: Saharaganj, Shahnajaf Road, Lucknow. Tel.: (0522) 3239901 • Kanpur: Z-Square Mall, Ground Floor. Ph.: (0512) 3275185 • Delhi: 1st Floor, The Promenade, DLF Place, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 70. Ph.: (011) 32470353 • Ghaziabad: Shipra Mall - Indirapuram. Ph.: (0120) 3208811

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Like us on:  www.facebook.com/TheJashn

www.jashnonline.com

December shoppers flock to the Ganj. Whiteaway's is well stocked with clothing, toys and gifts.

December 12, 1936
WHITEAWAYS!
Visitors to the Exhibition should not fail to visit our store in the
HAZRATGUNGE
where
Complete Stocks of—
Mens Wear, Ladies' & childrens' Ware, Household goods & Xmas toys & gifts Are on DISPLAY.
WHITEAWAY.
LAIDLAW & CO. LTD.
GENERAL DRAPERS,
LUCKNOW

A ten-day Exhibition of Italian Sculpture is also located conveniently on the Ganj

December 10, 1936
A rare opportunity to Beautify YOUR HOUSE
EXHIBITION
of
SUPERB ITALIAN MARBLE SCULPTURE
ON SALE
FOR 10 DAYS ONLY
(FROM 9th TO 19th December)
CORDIAL INVITATION TO ALL
AT HAZRATGANJ, LUCKNOW
Adjoining Arts and Crafts
(The premises previously occupied By Messrs. Mackenzie & Co)

In the last decade of the Raj, families are going home for the last time. There is a surge in auctions and bargain sales. The first Independence Day on the Ganj—an offer of deluxe dinner and musical entertainment for Re.4

The 'FITU' Corset is answerable for the Western woman's shape in this era.

December 13, 1936
WEARING APPAREL
NORTONS
for
Millinery, Dressmaking and
Ladies Sports Wear
Special Agent for the Celebrated
"FITU"
Corselets and Corsets
HAZRATGANJ
Lucknow

The year ends with a masked ball and Cabaret on the Ganj, at Valerio's. Ladies, as usual, have free admission.

December 31, 1936
8.30 pm. **VALERIO'S** ... 31st Dec 1936
HOGMANY FANCY DRESS
MASKED BALL AND CABARET
PRIZES, FUN & FROLIC.
Adm. Gents .. Rs. 2/-
Ladies FREE
M.M. Forces in Uniform Rs1/-

The Last Decade of The Raj

Life proceeds at an unruffled pace—a new Chinese restaurant opens, offering 'Specialty Suppers' for one rupee.

December 14, 1939
WANTED KNOWN
The Foo-Chow Restaurant
Hazratganj, Lucknow.
In addition to their varied menu offer "Specialty Suppers"
(a) English Haddock, with eggs, Chips, Bread & Butter. (b) Fresh Pomfret, Chips, with Bread & Butter. At Re. 1/- per supper.

A classic motorcycle, the Ariel Red Hunter, is for sale on Shah Najaf Road.

April 29, 1942
MOTOR
ARIEL, Red-Hunter 5 H.P.
Solo for sale. Price Rs. 800/- or near offer.
Inspection at
MOTOR CYCLE HOUSE
Shahnajaf Road

March 21, 1942
WANTED immediately a qualified, cultured Muslim Tutor for Nawabzadis. Pay Rs. 100/- to 150/- p.m. according to qualifications, with free partly-furnished quarters. None but Muslims need apply to the
PRIVATE SECRETARY to
H.H. The Nawab of Janjira State,
Janjira—Murad

Now it is May 1947

Families of the Raj are 'going home'—for the last time. The school term has ended. The process of selling off what cannot be carried home begins. A spate of auctions and sales in this month.

Ford and Morris Cars, a Tonga with horse, a Frigidaire 'complete with inside fittings'.

All kinds of furniture, and a 12 bore D.B.B.L. Gun.

Radios, Remington typewriters, Singer Machines, Gramophones, Cycles, Prams, Carpets and Electric Goods AC/DC, EP and Brassware, 'Poultry and a lot of Palm Plants etc.'

May 10, 1947

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: The undermentioned Furniture, etc. *Almirahs, Dining-room Table with Chairs, Ladies Dressing Table with long Mirror, Dining-room Sideboard, Dhooly with wire covered Mesh, Writing Desk, Drawing-room Settee, Newar Beds, Phillips Ladies Cycle, Gents all steel Royal Enfield Cycle, complete with Lucas Dynamo & Lamp. Piano by John Broadwood, all-steel frame, etc. Apply V.S. Benbow, 6 Havelock Road, Lucknow*

Between the lines, we can pick up the beginning of new trends: Young women can learn secretarial skills in 20 days

May 11, 1947
LEARN Shorthand and Typewriting in 20 days in Eng, Hindi or Urdu.
Sloan Shorthand College.
New Ganeshgunj, Lucknow

Today it is the 15th of August 1947.

On the Ganj, a celebration with Music and Dinner De Luxe is on offer for Rs.4/- at Capoor's Hotel

August 15, 1947

Tonight A unique programme

CAPOOR'S

Choicest Dinner with Entertainment

8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Viola
9.30 to 10.30 p.m. Sitar
11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Qawalli

QAWALLI

Dinner De Luxe Rs. 4/-

Book at once to avoid disappointment.
Entrance Free — Free, To all booking a DINNER,
Capoor's Hotel, BAR and RESTAURANT.
Hazratganj, Lucknow

After the Raj

Memories linger on, but new identities begin to emerge. A young woman no longer seeks employment as a Governess because 'smart and clean' steno-typists are very much in demand...

December 11, 1949
SITUATIONS VACANT
WANTED immediately two smart and clean lady stenotypists with experience of correspondence and filing, good pay and prospects.
Apply — **Singhs Ltd.**, Major Banks Road, Lucknow

Changes of various kinds are definitely taking place... designations have always been important.

July 28, 1955

SERVANTS COMPARTMENTS TO BE RENAMED

New Delhi — July 27 the designation "Servants' compartment" in trains on the Indian Railways is to be discontinued and will be replaced by the new designation "attendants' compartment."

But all those starchy English governesses and strict English teachers have left their mark. For Readers of English newspapers in 1957, the poets Robert and Elizabeth Browning are the ideal of passionate love...

July 20th 1957

Dear Elizabeth

I shall love you to the end and beyond — meet me at the Mayfair where air is fresh and sweet to breathe.

— Robert

July 21st 1957

OH, Robert, do you know what you've done for me? I wanted to live eagerly, desperately, passionately. Oh and so much more than that!

— Elizabeth

P.S. Yes, meet me at "Mayfair."

July 24th, 1957

Dear Elizabeth

At our first meeting at Mayfair you forbade me to speak of love but I knew well enough — we both knew that I was to be much more than just your friend.

— Robert Browning

On December 2, 1960, there is a Cultural Show on Mayfair Stage. It is the Bhartiya Kala Kendra Presentation of A Classic Dance Drama in Kathak Style, called "Shan-e-Oudh — The Splendour of Oudh during the reign of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah." The next day a Reader writes a Letter to the Editor commenting on "Shan-e-Oudh". For Lucknow residents in every decade, Hazratganj is a very special place, to be passionately protected and personally possessed.

Letters to the Editor

December 3, 1960

"SHAN-E-LOUDH"

In the days of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah the residents of Lucknow enjoyed "Shan-e-Oudh" on the banks of the river Gomti and nowadays if anyone wants to enjoy "Shan-e-Oudh" he will have to spend his evening in the area known as "Hazratganj"! The said area of Lucknow stands in the line of Chaurangi of Calcutta; Chaupati of Bombay or Cannought Place of New Delhi.

Nowadays Hazratganj has become "China Bazar" with a dozen or so of fruit sellers, pakauriwalas, chatwalas and you will even find few "chirmars" daily. A visitor will find a beggar after every step.

All this makes this area a China Bazar, not a place which we could say to anyone that this is the most famous market of Uttar Pradesh or this is the place to enjoy "Shan-e-Oudh".

I will wait to see that what steps authorities will take towards the hawkers and street beggars who are spoiling the reputation of that locality.

Lucknow

Ram Shanker Saxena



Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

HAZRATGANJ | A JOURNEY THROUGH THE TIMES
CC-0. UP State Museum, Hazratganj. Lucknow

Memories of the Raj linger on, but new identities begin to emerge. Instead of governesses we now require stenotypists. However some things never change — like irate citizens demanding a clean and well-kept Ganj

Shops of Hazratganj

A City of Picture Palaces

By Suzanne L. Schulz

The Plaza (now Sahu) was originally the parking area in front of the Prince. The new hall was opened on May 5, 1934 by the Javeri Brothers of Bombay and was touted as having cheap tickets and a palatial look

The 1930s and 1940s were defining decades for Hazratganj. It was during the thirties that three new cinema halls appeared that remain standing today: Plaza, Capitol, and Mayfair. During the forties, these halls became firmly ensconced in city life. The halls added sugar to the honey of the Ganj, augmenting the already burgeoning entertainment activities of dancing, greyhound-racing in Shah Najaf Road and drinking. As an evening pastime, attending a talkie could enjoyably be combined with eating out or window shopping, keeping the Ganj awake nightly past midnight.

The Prince of Wales Theatre, today a market behind Sahu Cinema, was the first hall in Hazratganj and had evolved from a stage theatre opened to commemorate the Prince's visit in 1876. Owned by the Shah Brothers of Nainital in its heyday as a hall, it had a liquor bar and a

by the Javeri Brothers of Bombay and was touted as having cheap tickets and a palatial look. The building, designed by Bana and Company, Bombay architects well known for their Art Deco sensibilities, was described by one critic as 'gaudy' on the exterior, but praised for its interior of fine silk tapestries and stained glass as well as its advanced technology - a state-of-the art cyclorama, thirty-five strategically placed fans, Western Electric audio equipment, and Lucknow's first cinema-based elevator, which delivered patrons directly to their seats.

In the same year, Prince temporarily closed for renovation, ostensibly to make itself a better competitor against Plaza. When it reopened on October 20, 1934, it was under the management of GH Thadani, later to become the proprietor of the Mayfair. This new incarnation of Prince experimented with novel technologies like the Audioskopics 3-D to garner interest, but never again achieved its former glory.

Capitol opened on February 5, 1937 and the British film 'It's Love Again', a romantic adventure tale of a young female tiger-huntress, was its first feature. Just a month after the hall opened, it was also showing live performances such as the 'Look Who's Here' revue, a cast of twenty-five performers, including the 'Laurel and Hardy of the East' and the 'Hotcha Girls', as well as a variety show headlined by the mystifying clairvoyant Dr Alvaro. The theatre was purported to appeal to 'both European and Indian audiences'.

While Capitol led the way in madcap stage performances, the practice of interspersing live events with films was common. Prince hosted the Royal Balinese Dancers and the legendary magician PC Sorcar. Sometimes these performances would benefit social causes: Plaza held benefit shows for ex-servicemen, Prince had a play by amateurs for Flood Relief in 1938. Live acts would often perform first in Hazratganj, and then move to Aminabad for the third or fourth shows.

On January 28, 1939 Mayfair Cinema was inaugurated in the newly constructed Mayfair Building, built by engineer Ram Chand Gurnani on what was formerly a vacant lot, whose only claim to fame up until that point was its peanut vendors. There was also a bar and ballroom in the building that would hold Saturday night dancing until

Pic Courtesy: Suzanne L. Schulz

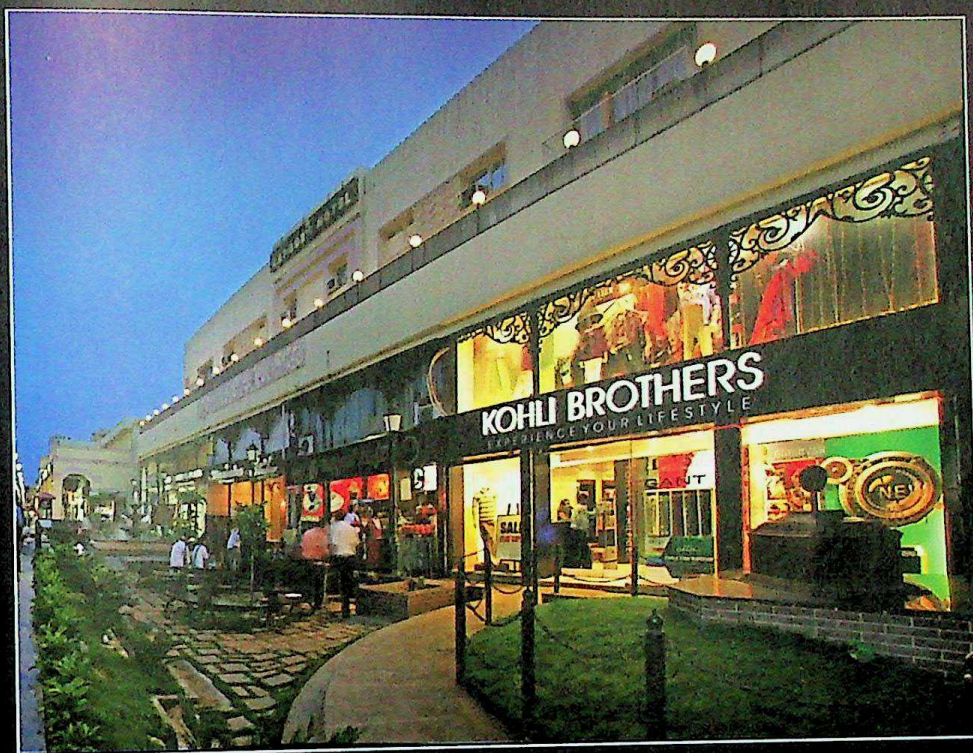


▲
The Hotcha Girls perform at the newly-opened Capitol Cinema on March 25, 1937

popular restaurant and was a favourite with British soldiers and the Anglo-Indian community.

The Plaza (now Sahu) was originally the parking area in front of the Prince. The new hall was opened on May 5, 1934

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Pic Courtesy : Bradley Shope



The Mayfair lobby the way it must have looked in its heyday – cinema, ballroom and restaurant in the unique art-deco building

A prime example is that of March 1948, when Mayfair hosted the world-famous Prithvi Raj Kapoor and his company in two social issue plays for the stage, 'Deewar' and 'Pathan'

the early hours of the morning. The cinema's first film, Laurel and Hardy's 'Blockheads', was attended by Minister K.N. Katju and benefited the 'discharged prisoner's aid society'. The success of the relatively small but attractive hall was bolstered by the war economy and the very personable service of its proprietors, G.H. Thadani until 1943 (followed thereafter by his son Gullu Thadani), and longtime manager, C.V. Advani, a dedicated administrator and passionate cinephile, who also managed Capitol.

Even by the late 1940s, barring the citywide temporary closure of the halls following the death of Mahatma Gandhi, pauses in the merriment of Hazratganj were rare. However, with new regulations and a brewing economic crisis in the United Provinces, the gaiety of Hazratganj was gradually tempered. Prohibition was introduced in 1947, having a major impact on the nature of leisure going in the Ganj. Also in 1947, the District Magistrate banned the use of electricity for cinema exhibition between the evening hours of six and nine, forcing the halls to adjust their timings to 4:45 and 9:00. By the 1949, stricter rules for the censorship of 'lewd' cinema posters and hoardings were implemented.

Despite the fact that Prime Minister Nehru had made a statement in 1948 against the construction of 'non-essential buildings' that led to legislation by the UP State Government, Novelty Talkies opened in Lalbagh on September 10, 1947, Basant opened on the Lalbagh side of the Mayfair building on June 3, 1948, and Prince was renovated for a second time in 1949. One local critic, an apparent Nehruvian, dismissed the claim that the new cinema halls might be seen as nationalist 'entertainment institutes' meant to spread enlightenment and diminish social ills as 'high-sounding eyewash'.

While live performances continued in this climate, they were less frequent and the fare became more staid and sober.

A prime example is that of March 1948, when Mayfair hosted the world-famous Prithvi Raj Kapoor and his company in two social issue plays for the stage, 'Deewar' and 'Pathan'. As was the practice, after three nights at Mayfair, the troupe continued on to Jagat Talkies in Aminabad.

As cinema-going shifted away from the drinking and dancing of the thirties, it began to revolve around coffee, confections, and other delicacies in the independence period. Several eateries sprang up adjoining cinema halls. The Prince Restaurant re-opened in the summer of 1947 and included an open-air garden and boasted of the city's best balai kulfi. Capitol Restaurant lured patrons with 'Peshawar dishes and naans'. In August 1949, Kwaliti's Restaurant, by then an institution in Delhi, came to Lucknow. It was located in the Mayfair building and seated over one hundred in the ground floor coffee shop and sixty on the upper floor, also known as the Grill Room. The staff itself numbered over two hundred and included 'stewards' and 'captains' who doubled as poets and singers, and would never fail to remember what people regularly ordered. Eating dinner on trays during the movies was condoned by the proprietors and practiced routinely.

But the enjoyment of food as a part of film going was not limited to sit-down restaurants. A commentator in The Pioneer wrote: 'With the refugees too came the pavement shops and restaurants on wheels which are patronized equally by the lady with pancake makeup and the beggar in rags.' However, access to these reportedly irresistible options was jeopardized when the Lucknow Municipal Board made a resolution in the beginning of 1948 to clear the footpaths of hawkers. Some argued that the hawkers were not refugees at all, rather opportunists trying to capitalize on a sensitive situation.

The end of the forties marked a turning point in cinema exhibition in Hazratganj. While three of the original cinema halls of Hazratganj proper - Prince, Plaza, and Capitol - had begun screening Hindi films by 1947, it was only Mayfair that continued exclusively to run English films well into the 1950s. Capitol and Prince also began special Bengali film screenings after 1947.

From the start, Basant screened Hindi films, as well as the occasional Tamil picture. Also by this time, heavy entertainment tax had begun to take a toll on the halls, and on July 1, 1949, the cinemas of Lucknow staged a unanimous and historic strike against the imposition of entertainment and other related taxes, commencing a period of controversy between the exhibitors and the State Government that persists to this day. Meanwhile, the parallel stage show, a fixture in the halls in the early period of exhibition, reached a level of near extinction by the 50s, paving the way for the next generation of Hazratganj halls, Tulsi and Leela, whose 70mm screens made space for cinema and cinema only.

Through the Mists of Time

Loved and Lost!

By Ashfaq A. Khan

Lucknow is a unique city, often surpassing many a European capital for its heritage, beauty, art and culture. William Howard Russell, the *London Times* correspondent, visiting it in 1858-59, wrote 'Not Rome, not Athens, not Constantinople not any city I have seen appears to me so striking and beautiful as Lucknow.' Even before the arrival of the Nawabi dynasty from Nishapur, in Iran, Lucknow had the Sheikhzada settlements of Machhi Bhawan, and Firangi Mahal to its credit and many other noteworthy buildings, which have turned to ruins with the passage of time or have been uprooted in the name of development and beautification. Most of these structures existed on the south bank of the river Gomti, where since time immemorial civilization has been in existence.

The city which know today as comprising the old and the comparatively new, belongs to the Mughal Period when the fourth Nawab Wazir, Asaf-ud-daula (1775-1797), shifted his seat of power from Faizabad to Lucknow 1775. The new Nawab directed all his available resources to build a city of his dreams, brick by brick, like no other that ever existed. The Asafi (Bara) Imambara and the Rumi Darwaza, the signature monuments of Lucknow, herald the uniqueness of the city and reflect its rich cultural heritage. These monumental edifices speak volumes of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula's zeal, passion and love for his newly built beloved city of Lucknow.

The connoisseur's eye for recognizing true beauty and incorporating it in the construction of new buildings was deeply embedded in the Shi'a Asna-Ashri faith which the Nishapuri dynasty followed. The virtue to appreciate all that was beautiful in art, architecture, music, humanities, culture, nature and language was the driving force that created legendary Lucknow. After the construction of royal palaces, villas, gardens and country homes, places of worship, memorials and monuments, a need arose for their connectivity. In pursuit of this need, and to make easily accessible the country villa of Dilkusha, the Kothi Hayat Bakhsh, the Kothi Nur Bakhsh, and Farhat Bakhsh palace, a wide road was laid out circa 1810 in the reign of the sixth Nawab, Saadat Ali Khan (1798-1814) half brother of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula. Construction was under the supervision of Raja Bakhtawar Singh, who was born near Baksar and subsequently acquired landholdings around Ayodhya. With the passage of time

this road has undergone many changes in its course and nomenclature. The road from Kothi Hayat Bakhsh (now Raj Bhawan) to Farhat Bakhsh adjacent to Chhatar Manzil (now the Central Drug Research Institute) and passing through the fashionable Hazratganj market was, during the Raj period, called the Mall Road and the Queen's Way. Post-independence it has been named Mahatma Gandhi Road.

'If Lucknow was the Baghdad and Cordova of India, and Nishapur and Bokhara of the east' as Abdul Halim Sharar wrote, the heart of this enthralling magnificent city undoubtedly lies beating in Hazratganj. Recognised as the epitome of art, culture, elegance, sophistication and beauty, it is presently celebrating 200 years of existence. Recently fully renovated and spruced up with lighted fountains and plazas, Victorian-style ornate lamp posts and the cobbled promenade, with lush green spots to complement the restored facades, it is an ambitious attempt to restore back its past glory.



A series of palaces forming a huge complex built by the fourth King, Amjad Ali Shah (1842-1847), in 1844 and gifted to his wife Queen Malka Ahad was called the Begum Kothi. Within it stood the Kothi Inayat Sultan. This complex comprised a large area at the very core of Hazratganj, occupying a vast area extending from the existing Shahi Masjid on today's Vidhan Sabha Marg till the boundaries of Imambara Sibtainabad Mubarak. This royal complex was self sufficient in its lay-out having its own mosque, imambara

'If Lucknow was the Baghdad and Cordova of India, and Nishapur and Bokhara of the east' as Abdul Halim Sharar wrote, the heart of this enthralling magnificent city undoubtedly lies beating in Hazratganj

▲ Roof-top view of the Begum Kothi mosque, which survived the demolition of the Begum Kothi itself

*On March 11, 1858,
during the
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than 860 native
soldiers gave their
lives in its defence
and the whole
palace complex
was looted and
plundered*

Pic Courtesy: The Akazi Collection of Photography



and palatial residences for the nawabi royalty with the Begum Kothi, a three-storeyed European-style palace, being the highlight. The whole area was enclosed by high walls and well-guarded gates. Except for the Shahi Mosque with its narrow entry passage, nothing remains of the Begum Kothi palace.

On March 11, 1858, during the recapture of Lucknow by the British, it was the scene of pitched battles when more than 860 native soldiers gave their lives in its defence and the whole palace complex was looted and plundered. This is the site where Captain William Hodson of the famous Hodson's Horse was fatally wounded and later buried in the compound of La Martiniere Boys' School. Queen Malika Ahad managed a narrow escape but over eighty of her female attendants were made prisoners and the *kothi* captured by East India Company soldiers. The aftermath of this clash was the vengeful destruction of the complex. Beginning with the demolition of the boundary wall, encroachments began on the abandoned property. The Head Post Office was located in its Imambara, shops were built and large areas were granted to the various restored Indian estates and other establishments favoured by the British regime.

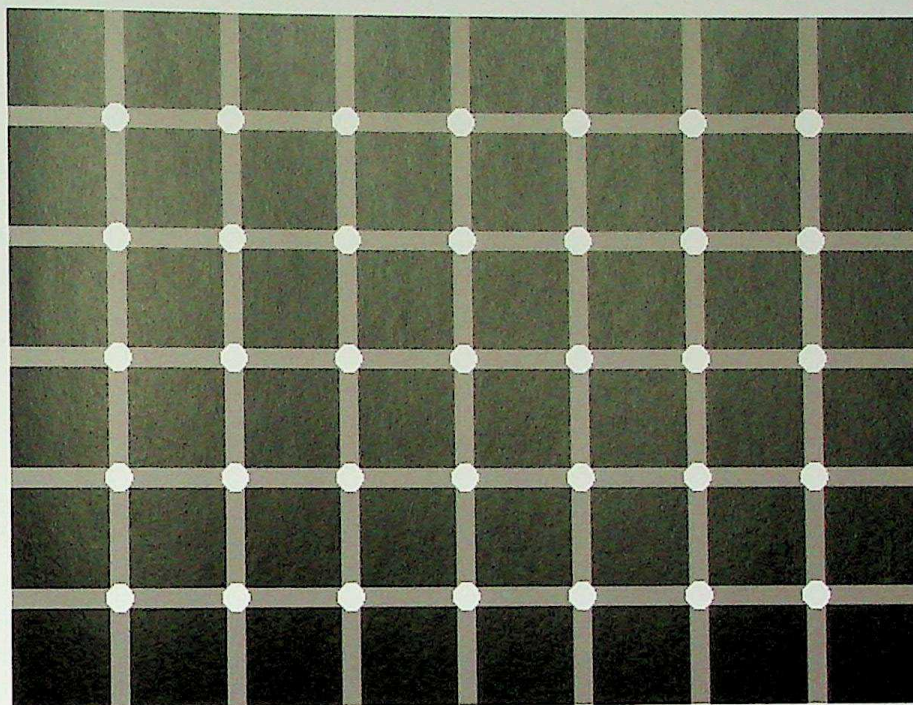
The present Capitol Cinema building, the Jhalkari Bai Hospital, Avانبai Mansion, the Newal Kishore residential estate, and on the miscellaneous shops were constructed on the foreground and surrounding lawns of the Begum Kothi. Other buildings accommodated here are the Divisional Regional Manager's office (the Northern Railways successor to the East Indian Railway), the Nagar

Nigam (Municipal Corporation) building, once the Printing Press of the Oudh & Rohilkhand railway, the Basant and Mayfair cinemas, Bhopal House and residences towards the Maqbara end. The last blow came when the remaining vestiges of the already victimized Begum Kothi were demolished by the Provincial Government in 1977 to give way for the Janpath Shopping complex. The Tej Kumar Plaza, a private venture followed suit close by. With this, in the name of development, Hazratganj lost its prime heritage and landmark property which now rests in peace in the pages of forgotten history.

Opposite, across the Vidhan Sabha Marg, stands majestically a gothic structure with its clock tower, renovated in 1929-32, housing the General Post Office which was shifted from its earlier location in the Begum Kothi. This is where, after 1857, once stood the Imperial Ring Theatre, an exclusive entertainment centre for the British, entrance to which was barred to Indians. Under the British Crown, it also functioned as the Special Imperial Court in which the hearing of the Kakori Conspiracy case was held in 1925. The outcome was that Ashfaq Ullah Khan, Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendra Lahiri, Roshan Thakur Singh and Swaran Singh (the uncle of Shaheed Bhagat Singh), were sentenced to death and hanged on December 19, 1927 in various jails on the same date. In this very Special Court, legal counsels for the defence were Govind Ballabh Pant and Chandra Bhanu Gupta, leading the team of prominent advocates and backed by Motilal Nehru, Acharya Narendra Dev, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi who defended till the end the accused freedom fighters. Jagat Narain Mulla, the leading advocate of Lucknow refused to

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▶
The Northern Railways Office,
Hazratganj

To the west of the Begum Kothi there existed a hospital and dispensary supported by the Nawabs, called Darul Shifa. It was located in a large single-storey rectangular building with a tiled roof and verandahs on all sides

Pic Courtesy: Raj Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



take up the defence of the revolutionaries. This is not remembered by the present generation or marked as a memorial for the freedom fighters. It is already a closed chapter!

To the west of the Begum Kothi there existed a hospital and dispensary supported by the Nawabs, called Darul Shifa. It was located in a large single-storey rectangular building with a tiled roof and verandahs on all sides. This building was purchased circa 1827 by King Nasir-ud-din Haider from the descendants of Joseph Quieros, the Spanish agent of Major General Claude Martin. When a new building was constructed in Haiderganj in 1864, the hospital was shifted there and the original building of Darul Shifa was converted into residential accommodation for the Secretaries of the Government of India. Post-Independence this building was demolished and on its site a multi-storeyed hostel for the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) was erected. Although the Darul Shifa was lost long ago, the name still continues.

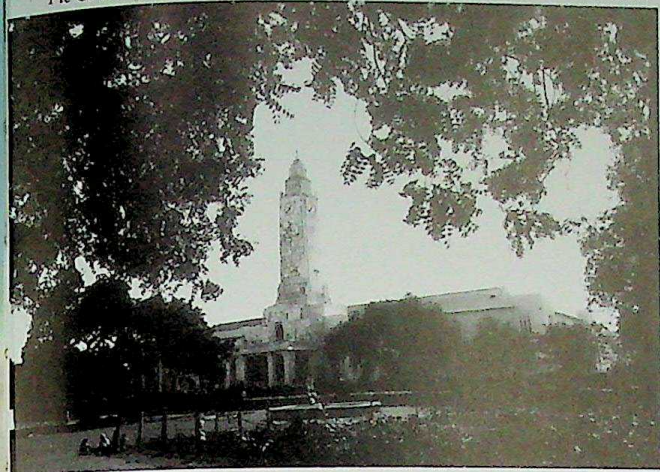
Going further west, we come to Imambara Sibtainabad Mubarak or Maqbara, the final resting place of King Amjad Ali Shah, known as 'Hazrat' from which Hazratganj may derive its name. This imambara was begun by the king during his lifetime. It has had a chequered career. In March 1858, it was captured by the East India Company forces, plundered and looted by the soldiers and used as an Anglican church until 1860. Today, its core monument is under the protection of the Archaeological Society of India (ASI) but despite this, the imambara compound, the gates and surrounding boundary wall have had many demolitions and alterations. It is surrounded by

encroachments and illegal constructions from all sides, adversely affecting its archaeological status. The imambara which is loved and revered, if not freed from the clutches of opportunists, is surely on its way to becoming a lost monument.

Pre and Post-Independence, the Maqbara Ahata (compound) accommodated a large number of Anglo-Indian families. Most of them were in the field of education and serving in English Medium Schools. Others were in the catering and hospitality trades and a few in the railways. Many were keeping the western music and party spirit alive in clubs and restaurants which brought laurels to their small but outstanding community. Who does not know the Fanthomes, the Manuals, the Newtons and above all Sir Cliff Richard, OBE, who was born and brought up in Maqbara and took his first guitar lessons here. With Independence most have migrated to England, Australia, or Canada in search of better pastures, but they are still loved and remembered for their indelible impact on Lucknow society.

Opposite the Imambara Sibtainabad, on the other side of Hazratganj, existed Kankarwali Kothi, built by Nawab Saadat Ali Khan and so called because its walls were plastered with kankar, or rubble. It was a two-storeyed building designed on the European pattern and till 1904, during the Raj period, it was the residence of the City Magistrate.

Another landmark of Hazratganj was once the old St. Joseph's Church, an elegant Gothic structure complete with conventional spires and traditional European church architecture. It was a neat plastered building painted cream



with a timber roof, blending smoothly with its surroundings and situated right in the heart of the Ganj, opposite Mayfair Cinema. It was built by a British Army officer in the Royal Corps of Engineers and was planned to have a seating capacity for three hundred, perhaps sufficient for that period when the denomination of Roman Catholics was limited. St. Joseph's Church was opened and consecrated on July 12, 1868 by the Right Reverend Max Paul Toshi. This church lasted a century but was abandoned and demolished in the year 1968-69 when its roof was declared unsafe.

A new cathedral came up on the same site, the foundation of which was laid on April 19, 1970 by the Right Reverend Dr. Albert de Conrad, Catholic Bishop of Lucknow and the construction was completed in 1977. This cathedral resembles an angel with outstretched wings, with a seating capacity of 1,000 and space for offices in its lower floor. The team of architects and engineers who designed and executed the work was headed by Mr Austin Lobo, the former chief architect of Uttar Pradesh, along with the Reverend Brother Julian Crasto representing the Catholic diocese. The present cathedral is futuristic in design, modern in its facilities, and massive in structure, giving an aggressive bold look, but it misses the humble, sober and awe-inspiring divine serenity which the old St Joseph's Church radiated for a century, blessing the exclusive and elegant Hazratganj.

On Sunday July 5, 2009, Hazratganj witnessed another heritage demolition. The hundred-year-old Hazratganj *kotwali* and fire station, a well-spread, large, double-storeyed beautiful red-stone building was razed to the ground to pave the way for a multi-level vehicle-park to solve congestion and parking problems in this up-market area. It had, in the year of its demolition, celebrated its centenary in January 2009 and stood in good sound condition as a prominent landmark. It was built in 1909 by Mr. Lebanti who had the famous Marble & Cement Works in Lucknow. Mr M.A. Beg, in *The Guide to Lucknow* (1911)

mentions that [the kotwali] 'has a European inspector attached to it and stands in the centre of a square on which were formerly dilapidated and squalid-looking native shops, now razed to the ground'. Around this have been built large and commodious double-storied buildings by Raja Tassaduq Rasul Khan of Jehangirabad.'

The demolition of the century-old kotwali building to make space for the multi-level parking facility was not graciously accepted by many heritage lovers. They had an opinion that the same could have been protected and the parking conveniently located elsewhere. This decision reflects the careless attitude of the development agencies towards the preservation, conservation and respect for heritage properties. A more responsible attitude, and an eye for exploring loving alternatives to implement new projects, without harming the old, is most sincerely the demand of the proud Lucknow citizens. It is clear that they will not tolerate dents to their heritage.

Off Hazratganj runs the Newal Kishore Road, a sad reminder of the internationally famous Munshi Newal Kishore Printing Press & Book Depot which was known for its publications, books and translations the world over and for long considered the best of its kind. This establishment, since its inception, did not have any peer and its publications were in great demand in India and abroad. Munshi Newal Kishore (born on January 3, 1836 at Aligarh) started his Newal Kishore Printing Press & Book Depot at the age of 22 in 1858 and within a short period he became the most renowned and respected personality in the field of education, literacy, printing and publishing. This Caxton of the Indian Press published and printed over 4,000 volumes, before his death on February 19, 1895. The Good Samaritan work of the press was continued by his successors with same zeal and enthusiasm till 1950, when, with a score of 12,000 volumes, due to shrinking economics, it had to close its shutters for good.

During its initial years it did exemplary services in propagating Indo-Islamic culture by translating Arabic

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



◀ The new General Post Office (1929-1932) which moved from its earlier location in the Begum Kothi

The demolition of the century-old kotwali building to make space for the multi-level parking facility was by many heritage lovers not graciously accepted. They had an opinion that the same could have been protected and the parking conveniently located elsewhere

◀ Entrance to the Newal Kishore Press

Newal Kishore Road

*The Mayfair, apart
from offering
recent English
releases held often
theatrical
performances by
the high and
mighty of
those days*

The first location of Valerio's,
the famous confectioners

and Persian religious treatises, fiction, classics and theologies to Urdu and publishing them at affordable prices. In later years, Munshi Kishore promoted Hindi language and literature and started an Urdu daily *Awadh Akhbar* on 26 November 1858 which ran for ninety-two years without any break and enjoyed a wide readership and high circulation. The press had nineteen branches in India and abroad and in 1882 was ranked the world's second, after the Alpine Press of Paris. With a staff of over 1,200, from 1890, it operated on steam power till the arrival of electricity in Lucknow. To meet the in-house demand of print, paper and steel fabrication Munshi Kishore started the Upper India Cooper Paper Mills in Nishatganj, the first of its kind in Lucknow and northern India. In memory of the Newal Kishore Press and its founder, the Post & Telegraph Department on his 75 death anniversary, on February 19, 1970, issued a commemorative postage stamp and a First Day Cover. Lucknow city honoured its proud citizen by laying out the Newal Kishore Park with his bust opposite Clark's Hotel in Hazratganj.

Coming back to the main market, opposite St. Joseph's cathedral we see the Mayfair building, which not very long ago housed three of the most remembered establishments of not only Hazratganj but of Lucknow and far beyond. These so dearly loved and so badly missed sites are the Mayfair Cinema Hall, the British Council Library and Kwaliti Restaurant. In the absence of this trio, despite all efforts of beautification and renovation somehow Hazratganj does not seem complete. The main building stands majestically on the cross road with its legendary signage announcing the once ever popular Mayfair Theatre, and the famous landmark of Ram Advani Booksellers gracefully inviting

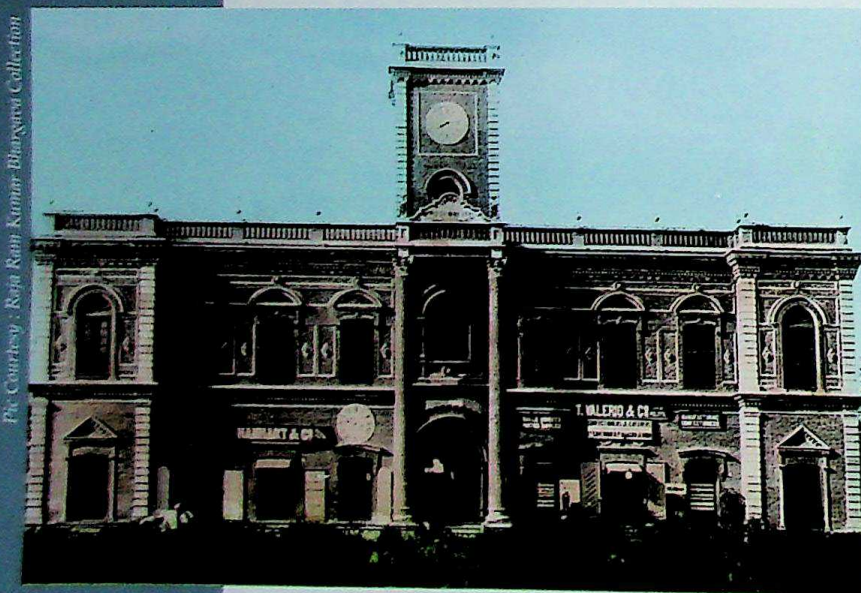


book lovers and reminding people of the nostalgic past. The rest of the surroundings give an eerie feeling and of uneasy calm. The Bank, travel agency and the lone shop selling electronic gadgetry are poor substitutes for the limelight and the portals where Lucknow's elite rubbed shoulders and la crème de la crème socialised, the glitterati celebrated and the best of etiquette, culture and style circulated. Alas, it stands today, begging for recognition.

The closure of the Mayfair Cinema due to family litigation among the owners around the late eighties, brought an end to the pleasures of Kwaliti Restaurant and the closing up of the British Council Library followed soon after. There was unrest and agitation among the British Library fans, newspapers carried appeals and protests, petitions against the closure were sent by many literary forums but it did not affect the policy maker and alas, Lucknow got deprived of this loved and precious institution.

Patronising and even visiting Mayfair had for the social elite had become an inseparable part of their daily outings. To see the best of English movies in an ambience which no other cinema hall could match was the fashionable 'in thing'. Right from the days of the Raj era till the cinema hall finally closed, for the young and the old alike, Mayfair was considered the ultimate destination for the Hazratganj lover and a centre of high entertainment for the whole city. Mayfair, apart from offering recent English releases often held theatrical performances by the high and mighty of those days. For the younger generation the Mayfair Cub Club with its Sunday morning shows and meetings, birthday celebrations and singing competitions on stage, was a welcome weekly event.

Mayfair was a dream venture for Gyan Thadani when he took on lease the land on which the building stands from Raja Saheb Jehangirabad in the 1930s. He handed over the same to Mr. Ram Chand Gurnani, who designed and built the Mayfair Cinema in 1939 as a place which right from its birth became the talk of the town and till its last show in late



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In later years there came up the Ambassador Restaurant and Dance Hall where there was once the Talwar Motors showroom for Ambassador cars. Today it is the Shalimar Commercial complex

eighties maintained its aura and glory. The ownership of the building is still with the Thadani's, successor of the founder builder, and the fate of this Hazratganj landmark is presently *sub-judice*.

During the Raj period there was one other popular dance floor in Hazratganj, mostly visited by the serving British defence personnel, the local Anglo-Indians and few upper crust Indians. It was situated in the same building that today houses the Gandhi Ashram in Hazratganj. This was the reputed and famous Valerio's Restaurant. The ground floor housed the spacious restaurant and above it there was the tea-room with a wooden parquet dance floor, where regularly dances were held with live music. On festive occasions it was tastefully dressed up for the grand gala Balls. This was Lucknow's happening place, maintaining high standards of service and offering premium fine dining facilities and authentic English and Continental cuisine. In February 1948 the Chief Minister, Govind Vallabh Pant handed this building to the Gandhi Ashram and in 1978-79 by courtesy of the Chief Minister, Chandra Bhanu Gupta, the uplift and renovation of the building was executed.

In later years the Ambassador Restaurant and Dance Hall came up where there was once the Talwar Motors showroom for Ambassador cars. Today it is the Shalimar

For a long time, right in the centre of Hazratganj, stood two cinema halls in one tall building. On the ground floor at the back, was the Prince of Wales Theatre and above it the Plaza which first became Regal, then Filmistan and finally the Sahu Theatre. The latter, with a lot of improvisations under the new management, has got a fresh lease of life, but the Prince of Wales was not fortunate enough to survive the commercial onslaught and has now been converted into the Prince Shopping Complex, along with its Krishna Restaurant and the New India Coffee House, replaced by the Sahu Agencies. Back to back there were two more popular restaurants adjoining the Prince of Wales and the Filmistan building. They were the Annapurna and Ranjana, favourite stop-overs of the elite ganjing crowd and a favourite meeting place over a pocket-friendly menu. Both these have closed down, the former existed where Wajid Hussain is now and Ranjana has been replaced by Barista, the modern coffee-house chain.

Benbows was a Swiss confectionery, famous for its pastries and cakes, run by an elegant *sherwani-churidar* clad Sardarji, but it could not survive the changing times too. In the same premises, now the Changamal, Ramsaran has his corner showroom of chikan-work garments. Adjacent to Whorras a staircase led to the then common man's loved China Bar and Restaurant, offering Chinese dishes and liquor at very affordable prices. This has been replaced by the 'Flying Machine' retail outlet. The other Chinese restaurants, loved by the masses in Hazratganj, were Simson in the Capitol building and the Hong Kong, both of which have closed, leaving Jone Hing the only survivor to continue running his Chinese eatery and Beauty Parlour in lieu of his once famous hand-made shoe shop.

At the far end of Hazratganj, at the cross-roads of Ashok Marg and Vidhan Sabha Marg, existed the renowned Indian Coffee House, more of a heritage institution than an ordinary restaurant and once patronized by the elite of Lucknow. Since its birth, around 1938, till a few decades ago, it was mainly a favourite of journalists, artists, trade union leaders, political big-wigs and research scholars. Being the rendezvous of the bohemian and the versatile. Several literary journals, socio-political movements and cultural awakenings owe their origin to this coffee house. From its inception till late 1980s, it was the haunt of the creative, but as times changed it started shedding its popularity and charisma. Decay crept into the establishment, affecting its distinguished patronage and it gradually slipped out of its loved prominence.

Eminent people who have graced this Coffee House were Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Acharya Narendra Dev, Atal Behari Vajpayee, Feroze Gandhi, Vir Bahadur Singh, Bhagwati Charan Varma (Hindi writer), Captain V.R. Mohan (industrialist), Amrit Lal Nagar (dramatist), and many more from all walks of life who went there to enjoy the intellectual debates over endless rounds of

Pic Courtesy : Kaju Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



▲
The second location of Valerio's Restaurant with the tea-room above

Commercial complex. In the 1930s, the newly-constructed Halwasiya Court, built on the European mansion-block style, proudly housed in its ground floor the Royal Café Restaurant with Mr. Manual and his Band Boys in attendance. It offered candle-lit dinners, elegant fine dining, with choice music and often a crooner, a perfect place with the right ambience to celebrate both family functions or a romantic date. This was before the Royal Café shifted across the Ganj, adjacent to Capoor's in 1960 and the ownership changed hands.

◀
Hazratganj in the 1960s

*Sheer
beautification of
Hazratganj, and
the provision of
ample facilities to
patrons,
renovation and
new constructions,
spreading greenery
and clearing
cluttered
pavements, will
not just suffice*

Pic Courtesy : Department of Information & Public Relations, UP Government

Pic Courtesy : Subram Kulkarni



▲
Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru at the
Information Bureau

*Although these
business houses are
gone and lost
forever, their
cherished
memories are still
fresh in the minds
of those who
frequented them*

►
Car parking in front of Mayfair

coffee. It is on record that around 1984 the then United States Ambassador to India, Henry Barnes, made an incognito visit to the Coffee House and enjoyed his cup of coffee while trying to unravel the mystery behind its large following.

Loved monuments, clubs, restaurants and other venues of social interaction in Hazratganj gradually wound up. This was also the fate of many other commercial enterprises and elegant shops which were once the highlight of this posh market.

Hazratganj, during the pre-Independence era and even immediately after, housed big names such as Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co., a branch of an English departmental store, making available every imported item in vogue in the British Isles, from fashions and luxury goods to the fancy cold cuts, perfumes and bespoke tailoring. This store stood besides Mayfair where now the Life Insurance building stands. It was the life-line of the debonaire English ladies and gentlemen stationed in Lucknow and a window to the world of consumer goods for the high-profile anglicised Indian aristocracy.

Other favourites of the Raj era which later shut down their premises in Hazratganj were: A.N. James & Co. a famous drug pharmacy, Murray and Co. the General Merchants of quality goods, G.W. Lawrie & Co. photographers, Rufener the German jewellers at the site of Capoor's Hotel, Anderson Bros. Gentleman Tailors & Outfitters, now 'Woodland' showroom, the London House

Clothiers & Drapers now Kaysons and Viccajee's Automobile show-room selling the latest Chevrolets, Fords & Austins.

Post-Independence and later, many more renowned business establishments of Hazratganj had to bow out and call it a day. They include Kazim & Co, Watchmakers; Ram Lall & Bros, Saree Shop & Drapers; Modern Novelties, general merchants; Bakshi and C. Mull, photographers; Malkani Wine Merchants; Lila Ram; Oberoi Sports; 'Back in a Day' Dry Cleaners, Kays Cozy Corner; Baluja; Hind Shoes and many more changing hands and fading away gracefully, giving way to the new entrants. Although these business houses are gone and lost forever, their cherished memories are still fresh in the minds of those who frequented them and enjoyed their old-world etiquettes, courteous services and elegant mannerisms. The courtly language, the hallmark of this Nawabi city, flourished in these shops of Hazratganj. These were the people of yesteryear who bestowed on Hazratganj the reputation of a fashionable up-market place with a beating heart and a lively ambience which could nowhere be so commonly found and heartily enjoyed. On all the streets that lead to Hazratganj, the tradition of making business a pleasure will always continue.

Sheer beautification of Hazratganj, and the provision of ample facilities to patrons, renovation and new constructions, spreading greenery and clearing cluttered pavements, will not just suffice. We need to do far more reformation and self evaluation to cultivate in us the civic sense and responsibility, to broaden our outlook and social spectrum by being polite and tolerant, more respectful and law-abiding. This change of attitude is the call of the day. If we want to see Hazratganj and its associated culture to proudly continue and the beauty of it to remain ever young for generations to come, then let the past be the guide to the present. Viva Lucknow! Viva Hazratganj!

Pic Courtesy : Krshan Sait



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Personalities of Hazratganj

RAM ADVANI

In the mid-twenties my parents, along with two other Sindhi families from Karachi, came to Lucknow in search of a new world. I was very young and recall living in Hazratganj. I went to St Joseph's School. My father opened the Lucknow Book Shop where the current Kashmir Emporium is, as well as book shops in Cawnpore and Nainital. My mother died in 1934 and my father decided to return with his young family to Karachi. The two families that had come with him insisted that he stay.

The other two families were those of Seth Gyanchand Thadani and Mr H. Mansukhani. Mr. Mansukhani was

father to stay on in Lucknow and help him.

After watching films, very often the late show, we used to walk back to our first home in Lucknow which was close to Wingfield Park. After the Allahabad Bank on Park Road was the Kasmanda House and the residence of the City Magistrate. Beyond Park Lane and upto the crossing of Narhi there was a wooded, forest area. Wingfield Park itself stretched right up to Park Road and the current Civil Hospital and Information Department buildings were a part of the deer enclosure and you could see deer and rhinos as you walked along Park Road. Across the road from Wingfield Park was just one house, Jackson House. Later it became Thapar House. A road ran through Wingfield Park connecting Jopling Road to Loreto Convent and this was open to vehicular traffic up to the fifties.

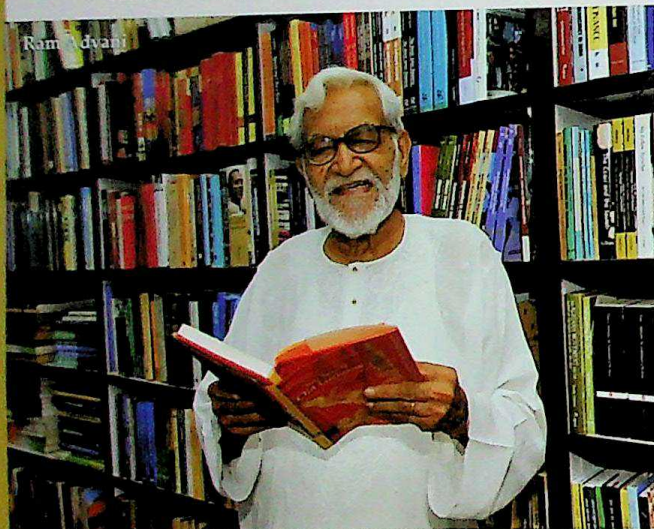
My memories of Hazratganj become sharper from 1933 onwards. Perhaps this was because I learnt how to ride a bicycle and began to roam around Hazratganj on it. The roads were cleaner and seemed much wider than now. I clearly remember that between the St Joseph's Church and the Post Master General's Office there was just one bungalow. The other prominent buildings that I remember were the District Magistrate's Bungalow, the Jehangirabad Palace, the Allahabad Bank, the Central Bank and the East Indian Railway building. Halwasiya Court, Halwasiya Market, and the Stadium were not there then. Neither were the buildings opposite Halwasiya market on either side of the Maqbara gate. There was open ground with trees there. Mayfair and Basant Cinema were built later, on open ground where people sat around and vendors sold peanuts. Hazratganj was very green with large trees on the pavements on both sides of the road and in the open areas.

I remember the time when there were no electric lights on the streets of Hazratganj. Yet it was well lit (by gas) during the night. A man came around in the evening, carrying a ladder on his bicycle, to light the street lamps, and early in the morning to put them out. At some places in Hazratganj there were notices indicating the lighting time. After this designated time, it was mandatory for all bicycles, tongas and other vehicles to carry lights on them. I also recall that there was no street food available in Hazratganj. Ice creams or ice sodas were only available in restaurants. There were no carts selling anything. There were hawkers selling peanuts and seasonal fruit but they sold these items from baskets which they carried around on their heads.

There were distractions in Hazratganj apart from the three cinema halls. There were the billiard rooms in the

My memories of Hazratganj become sharper from 1933 onwards. Perhaps this was because I learnt how to ride a bicycle and began to roam around Hazratganj on it

Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra



trading in silk from the shop where the current Choudhary Sweet House now stands. His daughter, Shanti Hiranand, later became the first student of Begum Akhtar and continues to perform till today. Mr. Thadani was running four regimental cinemas in the Dilkusha cantonment and also managing the Prince of Wales Cinema and my father helped him there. Sometimes as children we stood at the gate as ushers and let the British soldiers in and were rewarded with peanuts and chocolates. As children we also got to see every film that was screened at the Prince of Wales Cinema. I remember when sound came to the movies in 1934, I saw *Rio Rita* and what I remember clearly are the signs, lit in red, all around the dark hall, asking for SILENCE. Sometimes I went back again and again to see a particular sequence that I liked. Mr. Thadani wanted to open his own cinema house in the Civil Lines and asked my

Prince of Wales, the Capitol and in the Lawrie Building (where the Capoor Hotel is today), where I went to watch friends play. Or I went skating in the rink opposite Whorras. I still have the roller skates I bought then. I knew the shops well though I never shopped in Hazratganj. People paid extra for the privilege of shopping in well-managed shops where service standards were European. The floor staff in these shops was Indian while the European managers and owners stayed in the background.

Of the Europeans I particularly remember was Robert Anderson of Anderson Brothers who had a lucrative tailoring business. His shop was where Woodland is today with a portico at the eastern end of the Ganj. His wife ran a tailoring business for women called Nortons, close by. The Andersons were very nice to us because my father had worked with him. Then there was a German jeweller called Rufener in the Lawrie Building. I remember him because he was European and spoke with an accent that was not British. When the war broke out, he was detained as a German national and sent to Dehradun, and the shop was closed. There was also Mr. Lancaster who was associated with the Oriental Motor Company. Mr. Lancaster was from the same family as Percy Lancaster, the author of the well known book *Gardening in India*.

There was Valerio's tea room where Gandhi Ashram is today but I never went in there except once to buy some cream rolls because they had superb confectionary but they were very expensive. It had a dance floor too. Benbows opened later. Where Burma Bakery is today there used to be a very popular Chinese restaurant with cubicles across which you could draw curtains. Close to it was Magnolia. I loved eating fish and chips and I ate these often at Chinese restaurants all of which served European cuisine. All restaurants used to have liquor licences.

For a haircut I went to Aktor & Co. run by Akhtar Jan who later opened a successful hair-cutting salon AN John and sons. He wasn't the only one who changed his name. The owner of Mayfair had also changed his name to Mr. Thad and it was only after independence that he reverted to Thadani.

In 1937 Mr. Thadani decided to lease the vacant land opposite St Joseph's Church, from Raja Sir Mohd. Ejaz Rasul Khan Saheb of Jehangirabad for a paltry amount and decided to build a cinema hall. There were many ups and downs and finally the cinema opened in 1939. Mr. Thadani had decided to name it Metropole but for some reason, when he went to register it, he changed his mind and decided to call it Mayfair. There was also a Mayfair Ballroom and a Mayfair restaurant attached. My father managed all these establishments for Mr. Thadani.

The outbreak of the war and the influx of soldiers invigorated Hazratganj. The cinema halls had two shows a day: at six-thirty and nine-thirty. The popular notion of having fun was to come to Hazratganj: have a drink, eat at a

Chinese restaurant and see a movie or go to one of the ballrooms. Mayfair was the first commercial ballroom but the Ambassador skating rink next door was converted into another ballroom too. There was also the Lucknow Club at Lawrence Terrace for those who found the other two very expensive.

The Mayfair Ballroom was on the first floor and would open at 8.00 pm. It was managed by Bob Lawson and one of its attractions was a crooner named Miss Fanthome. There used to be a live orchestra on Saturdays and Sundays and it stayed open till five in the morning on weekends. The entrance charge was not too high but the ballrooms made enormous profits from the sale of liquor. Anyone could enter as long as they were properly dressed. Women were mostly dressed in the European style though some came in saris. There were more men than ladies and many of the women who came there used to smoke and drink. This ballroom was a great opportunity for many men to learn dancing and to mix with ladies. I myself learnt to dance the waltz, fox-trot and tango from an Armenian lady who was a great tango dancer. People would go out on to the terrace from the ballroom and later at night the revelry would sometimes spill over into the streets with drunken soldiers and their lady friends dancing on the street. But, by and large discipline was expected and maintained in areas like these. The Mayfair ballroom used to have tambola nights and organise music shows.

During the war years other things changed too. Valerio's closed down and a Coffee House opened in its place. Above it, where Soochna Kendra now is, there was a private guest house for soldiers called Soldiers' Home. Bush shirts were seen for the first time with the arrival of the American soldiers, and increased traffic in Hazratganj saw the appearance of cycle rickshaws.

After Independence things naturally changed again. The change in liquor licensing laws meant that most of the popular restaurants, particularly the Chinese ones, closed down. The Mayfair restaurant too closed and the space was leased out to Kwaliti. The ballrooms closed. Europeans, unsure of the future, began to leave. The establishments owned by them in Hazratganj either closed down or changed hands. Many of the Anglo-Indians who lived around Hazratganj, and who were crucial to its fabric, also began migrating. With the coming of refugees after partition, Hazratganj grew rapidly. The work culture began to change. The migrants were more active, more aggressive and intent on getting on with their jobs. On the other hand, these newcomers to Lucknow couldn't help but be influenced by the sophisticated, courteous and stylish culture of Lucknow because there was so much to imbibe.

I also got the opportunity to open a branch of J. Ray & Sons, the chain of family book shops belonging to my grandfather which until then had existed in Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Murree and Simla. The Indian

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Coffee House shifted to Jehangirabad Mansion and its space was allotted to Gandhi Ashram. I happened to meet Acharya Kripalani, President of the Gandhi Ashram, who, aware of my family's long association with the book trade was kind enough to offer me space within the Gandhi Ashram to open a book shop. A 12x40 ft area, to the left as you entered, was cordoned off and allotted to me.

The Gandhi Ashram was supposed to open on February 1, 1948 and on 30 January of that year, Gandhiji was assassinated. The opening was postponed for a fortnight. The book shop being situated right there was a very lucky break for me. *Khadi* was in vogue all over the country and this was the place to buy *khadi*. All the stalwarts, whether it was Pandit Nehru or the Chief Ministers, visited the shop. I was a newcomer to the book trade in Lucknow but I found a clientele immediately. I was eager to do well and therefore did everything to educate myself about books. I also did not treat books like a commodity.

I did well and by 1950 they began to politely hint that they wanted their space back. In 1951, I got this shop in the

Mayfair building. I heard from Mr. Larkins, the manager of Lawrence & Mayo, the opticians who were occupying the premises, that they would be vacating it. Mr Gulu Thadani naturally agreed to rent it to me provided it was allotted to me. I had built up enough good-will for that not to be a problem.

I decided to change the name of the shop. The Right Reverend George Sinker, Bishop of Nagpur, who had been a godfather to me, came and stayed with me around that time. I told him of my plans and that I was thinking of calling my new shop 'The Strand' or 'The Globe Book Stall', and he said 'Don't be silly. Booksellers all over the world are known by their names and not as Strand, Globe or Britannia. Call it Ram Advani Booksellers.' My father laughed at the idea but against the advice of my entire family I followed George Sinker's advice. On July 1, 1951, I opened this shop – and here I am till today.

(Ram Advani is the owner of the well-known Ram Advani Booksellers in Hazratganj.)

As told to Saleem Kidwai

BEGUM HAMIDA HABIBULLAH

There used to be a front gate to the House Number 11, right on Hazratganj which was called The Mall during the British days. It was a white gate, huge and heavy, with vertical parallel bars. From this gate a long oval driveway led into the arched portico. The driveway was lined with tall *ashok* trees, purple hydrangeas and trim bushes of mandarin oranges, enclosing a central rose garden and fountain.

The rear boundary of the house extended up to St. Francis School, and on one side we shared a wall with the Post Master General's Office. In front, on the Ganj, Halwasia Market was conveniently next door. The gate, the driveway, and much of the land has gone but we still have our marvellous house which is over 230 years old.

I first entered this house as a new bride in 1938 when I married Enaith 'Bubbles' Habibullah who was in the Army. After he retired as Major General in 1962 we came back to live here permanently. My father-in-law, Sheikh Mohd. Habibullah, a taluqdar from Saidanpur, bought this house in 1920 from the Delhi and London Bank. The old vault of this Bank still exists in the rear portion of the house.

My father-in-law and his eldest son were very keen on *shikar* (hunting) and one of the rooms was adorned with leopard and tiger skins, and the mounted heads of *barasingha*. The display of these trophies was an essential part of the decor of all elite homes in those days. My husband, however, was opposed to *shikar* and preferred the adventure of discovery through books, reading for hours at his favourite roll-top desk in his study.

My mother-in-law was Inam Fatima. Her sister lived across the street at Number 2, in a house that has been immortalised by her daughter Attia Hosain in the novel *Sunlight On A Broken Column*. Inam Fatima, who had led a sheltered and conservative life growing up in Kakori, had to make many adjustments when she came to live in this house. Her husband, who was the first Indian Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University and a personal friend of the Governor, Sir Harcourt Butler, encouraged her to give up *purdah* and to wear saris instead of *ghararas* when she accompanied him to the homes of his friends. A Mrs. Hyde was hired to teach her English and Western etiquette. I remember Mrs. Hyde as a very good-looking woman from a good family who stayed here for many years. Mrs. Daley was governess to the boys and taught them all there was to know about the flora and fauna of the region and beyond, until they left for school in England. She had a very strong influence on my husband's later interest in history, books, and a love of nature.

My mother-in-law managed this house with a large retinue of servants. Hari Narain was the house bearer – he sat in a chair on the front veranda all day, and whenever visitors arrived he went inside to announce them. There was Shafi, the *khidmatgar*, who looked after my father-in-law's clothes, his breakfast and his personal things. There was Pir Baksh, the table bearer who wore white gloves on formal occasions. Bundi Baba looked after the pigeon coop, the *kabutar khana*. Chiddoo, our dhobi, delivered fresh laundry every day which he expertly washed in the big tank built for this purpose. His son went to school and college, and his grand children are bright young lawyers

There used to be a front gate to the House Number 11, right on Hazratganj which was called The Mall during British days. It was a white gate, huge and heavy, with vertical parallel bars. From this gate a long oval driveway led into the arched portico

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Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Former President of India March -3, 2006

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Begum Hamida Habibullah

Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra



My husband, Major General Habibullah, was deeply committed to the conservation of Awadh Heritage. In the early '70s, when there was a proposal to tear down the Begum Kothi, he lobbied hard with the Chief Minister, HN Bahugana

and engineers today. Shubrati was the driver and there were two chowkidars – everyone lived in the servants' quarters at the far end of the compound.

I must tell you about the chowkidar called Ram Charan who was tall and erect, thin and bald, and wore benign round spectacles. It was hard to believe that he had once been a dreaded *daakoo*! My father-in-law, as Deputy Collector of Saharanpur, had to break up a gang of dacoits, but for some reason he took the responsibility of bringing this dacoit home instead of putting him in jail. Over the years, this reformed, gentle man remained devoted to my father-in-law. I have a picture in my mind of those last days, my father-in-law in a wheelchair in the garden, surrounded by a profusion of roses in full bloom, with this tall silent sentinel by his side. Ram Charan's sons went to school and did well in later life.

The *mughlani*, Suggan, was the housekeeper. She lived in the main house, and her duties were to look after the *paandaan* and store-room supplies. She gave out the money for grocery shopping and saw to the linen. Eight gardeners tended the exotic Fern House and the gardens. Our flowers won many prizes at the annual flower show at Government House.

Begum Inam Fatima had a pretty, coquettish personal maid called Achhola, who was quite a personality herself! She was also from Kakori and was married to Amjad the cook. Attia Hosain has modelled one of her characters, Hasina (a village girl who comes to town to work as a maid)

on Achhola, her love affairs, and her life as a maid in a Begum's house. Here are a few lines from the short story *The Street of the Moon* in the collection *Phoenix Fled*: 'She helped Mughlani... but enjoyed most her work as the Begum's personal maid. She loved sensuously the feel of the silk clothes she pressed and folded. The silver, the perfumes, powder and paint arranged on the toilet table fascinated her. She had never before been allowed to touch anything in the room except by stealth. Now she was free, and not watched. Mughlani sat in the verandah most of the time, and the Begum was out quite a lot.'

Begum Inam Fatima, who started her life in *purdah*, went on to become the first woman magistrate in the United Provinces, a member of the Legislative Assembly, and a pioneer of Muslim women's education. Even though it must have broken her heart, she agreed to send her three sons, at a very young age, to study in England. She is an example of how each generation must embrace the changing world, while maintaining a personal identity, and contributing to a better society. She continued to live in this house, and remained actively involved in her charitable work, till the end of her life. It was here that I started my own career in politics and social work. So this house has always seen a lot of meaningful activity and excitement, some of which was recorded by the well-known photo studio of those days, C. Mull and Company. Later another photo studio, Bakshi Brothers, opened up in the block of shops opposite our house.

My husband, Major General Habibullah, was deeply committed to the conservation of Awadh Heritage. In the early '70s, when there was a proposal to tear down the Begum Kothi, he lobbied hard with the Chief Minister, H.N. Bahuguna, and succeeded in saving it. Unfortunately, in 1975 Bahuguna lost power, the cause of conservation was lost, the historic Begum Kothi was torn down in 1977 and Janpath Market was built over it.

I think back on the early years of my marriage when Bubbles and I used to come home for our holidays. We would dash off to shop at Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co. which had the best and latest British goods – I remember looking at layettes for newborn babies in pale pastel colours, decorated with ribbons and lace. How different from our traditional use of vivid colours edged with shiny *lachka* and *gota* even for baby clothes!

Bubbles and I would cross the road to Mayfair, watch a movie, usually followed by dinner at Kwaliti's, and then there was dancing on the terrace of Mayfair building. We were so young and the future was endless. There was music and moonlight, so we danced and danced till the dew began to fall...

(Begum Hamida Habibullah is a social activist and has been a member of Parliament.)

As told to Nasima Aziz

PADMA SHRI

RANI LILA RAMKUMAR BHARGAVA

I was sixteen when, in 1938, I was married to Late Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava, the great grandson of Munshi Newal Kishore and came to live here in Hazratganj. I have been living here since then. This is the property that Munshi Newal Kishore had bought sometime in the 1860s when he moved from Golaganj and Rakabganj to Hazratganj to establish his printing press and publishing house here. He himself lived and worked from here. The Newal Kishore Press (and later the Ice Factory) were on the road that is now named after him but the business and editorial offices were within this compound. There was a house that belonged to the Nawabi period within the premises. There was a large gateway which opened on to Hazratganj and next to it, along the main Hazratganj Road, he built a large modern town house which today is the Central Bank of India. It was the first building with a clock tower in Hazratganj.

Inside the gate, on both sides of the driveway, were quarters for the staff, other offices of the Press, and the book-binding unit. The Newal Kishore Book Depot was also on these premises. Relatives too lived on this estate. The Ram Kumar and Tej Kumar Plazas of today are both built inside this compound. The Begum Kothi was next door, separated by a boundary wall. The Begum Kothi housed the first General Post Office of Lucknow and the proximity was probably deliberate, given the popularity of the Journal *Awadh Akhbar* and the enormous publishing output of the Press with its very wide distribution.

After Munshi Newal Kishore, his nephew and adopted son Prag Narayan continued publishing books, journals and newspapers in Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit and many other Indian languages. His son, Bishan Narayan Bhargava, my husband's father, started the Hindi magazine *Madhuri* and Premchand continued to be associated with us. Unfortunately, Bishan Narayan Bhargava died young and the family property was temporarily taken over to be managed by the Court of Wards while his sons Ram Kumar and Tej Kumar were minors.

We owned all the property at this end of Hazratganj except a block at the corner which belonged to a Parsi gentleman; we also had property elsewhere in Hazratganj. The building in which you have the Capitol cinema was built by my husband who named it Bishan Mansion in memory of his father. The Chaupar Hospital and Lila Cinema Hall are built on land which once belonged to the Newal Kishore Estate. The guest house of Newal Kishore Press was called Mubarak Manzil and was considered auspicious by many of our friends and acquaintances who borrowed the premises to solemnise marriages.

I have heard that when Motilal Nehru joined the Indian

National Congress he auctioned off some of his properties. My husband's grandfather bought a horse carriage that had belonged to him. My husband's grandmother used to travel only in that carriage. Prag Narayan was also the first one to own an electric car and a steam car in Lucknow. I believe they attracted a great deal of attention. I remember carriages parked in the house though we mostly used cars. We also owned elephants, which were quartered near the Gomti, near the present Wazir Hasan Road, and were used mainly for *shikar*. Here, in the middle of Hazratganj was a house full of all sorts of animals and birds! There were horses, cows and dogs in the compound. There was also a very extensive collection of parrots and parakeets. We also had white peacocks which were so rare that even the Zoo did not possess any. Eventually all the birds were given to the Zoo and the Zoo named its Parrot House after my father-in-law.

Women in our families did not need to go out to shop and did so only as a diversion. Whenever we needed anything,



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

whether textiles or jewellery, the shopkeepers brought the latest stocks to the house. I remember Lal Bihari Tandon bringing over chikan-embroidered saris every summer. On a rare shopping trip we were more likely to head for the largest shops to see what was available, or to the shoe shops. The Chinese shoemakers in Hazratganj were very good. I particularly remember one called Lisen. He had a high reputation. We liked to have shoes made to match the colour of our saris so we used to go over to his establishment and he

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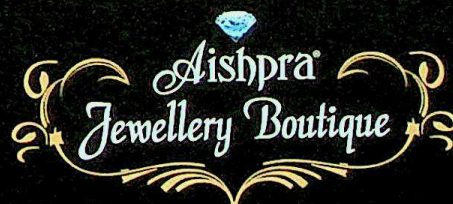


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would show us the design, the leather and colour from which we could place an order. There used to be an Italian beauty and hair saloon where the Changamal shop now is. It was very popular with the ladies, the Indian ladies using it mostly to get their hair curled.

In the early years, Hazratganj was a quiet, clean and orderly place. I remember how the newly-built Halwasiya Market changed the look of Hazratganj. There was barely any traffic with occasional cars parked around and a few horse-carriages driving around Hazratganj. By far the most popular form of public transport were tongas or ekkas. They were usually parked at the spot from where Narhi begins. My husband's grandfather, Prag Narayan, even had a trough built there for horses to drink from. Bicycles were a common sight in Hazratganj. Cycle-rickshaws appeared much later.

We were very close to the other families that lived in Hazratganj. Our relations with the Raja of Jeahangirabad, Shahid Hussain and Shaikh Habibullah and his wife Begum Inam Habibullah were very cordial. All of us were also very friendly with Spencer Harcourt Butler, the first Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. In fact, Raja Mahmudabad even built a palace and named it after his friend. My husband used to address Begum Inam Habibullah as aunt. As Chairman of the Improvement Trust, he helped her get land on a long lease for Talimgah-e Niswan, the girls' school that she had started. I vividly remember the wedding celebrations of Hamida and Enaith Habibullah who were married a few months after me in 1938. That was where I first saw the great Akhtari Bai perform in a *mehfil* in the Qaisarbagh Baradari. There were other ladies who did the *mujra* but Akhtari Bai sat and sang. Of course I got to know her very well after she married Ishtiaq Ahmad Abbasi. She stopped performing publicly in Lucknow after her marriage but she sang here in this house whenever we asked her to. She was very affectionate and would threaten that if I stepped out even for a minute while she was performing, she would stop singing.

Sarojini Naidu was very fond of me. She laid the foundation stone of a school I founded a month after she had taken the oath as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh. I also met Jawaharlal Nehru many times. We have so many photographs of him that there is no place on the walls for them. So they are all in albums. We often hosted him at teas and dinners which could not be in this house because of the number of people invited. Instead, they were held in other venues like Lucknow University or the Qaisarbagh Baradari. I knew Indira Gandhi too. In fact, she and Feroz Gandhi were our tenants (in the flat on top of B.N. Rama) when they were newly-weds.

I have been involved with social work from the beginning. Within a month of Independence I founded the Bharatiya Balika Vidyalaya on Shah Najaf Road. I am life-president of this school. I have also been on the management and advisory committee of the Museum and many other public and civic institutions. I was nominated to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and awarded a Padma Shri for Social Work in 1971.

My husband's grandfather Prag Narayan donated land belonging to the family for the creation of a public park across from where the Capitol Cinema is. It used to be known as Prag Narayan Park. When King George V's statue was installed in the park, people started calling it the Raja Park or Badshah Park. When Gandhiji's statue replaced that of the King's, it began to be called Gandhi Park. Then a part of this park was partitioned to install the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and this part of it came to be known as Patel Park. What is unfortunate is that as history moved, not even a part of the Park is still associated with its original donor, Prag Narayan. I sincerely wish this would be corrected.

(Padma Shri Rani Lila Ramkumar Bhargava is the great grand daughter-in-law of the late Munshi Newal Kishore. She is also a renowned social worker.)

As told to Saleem Kidwai

BARBARA ANTUNIS

Nearly 80 years ago when we moved into this house we had a choice of houses to live in because many houses in Maqbara would fall vacant. My parents moved into Maqbara from Routledge Road because my grandparents already lived here in No. 24. The Maqbara houses were of different sizes with different shaped rooms and my grandparent's house was small – only four small rooms. When my younger sister Margaret was born we needed more space so we shifted here into No. 9 Maqbara Quarters. I was four years old then. Ever since then I have been here and have had the sad

duty of laying out my Mummy and my Daddy in this very house. Now I joke with the family that I'm the last man in, literally, because there is no one after me.

My grandfather A.E. Johnson was a European. My grandmother was an Anglo-Portuguese. There was one water tap in my grandfather's house and we were very excited that our new home had four taps. The taps were the first thing that took my fancy. The toilets were all dry. The floors were of exposed brick and not plastered. The walls were of *lakhori* bricks and unplastered. These niches were all arch-shaped. The walls were very thick and extremely hard to break. This wall of the living room was the boundary wall of the Imambara. Most probably these rooms were used as stables by the British. There was an

In the early years, Hazratganj was a quiet, clean and orderly place, with barely any traffic. I remember the newly-built Halwasiya Market. There was barely any traffic



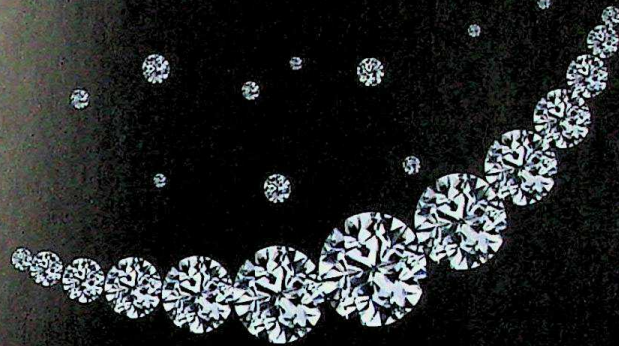
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*Hazratganj today
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underground drainage which also kept the rooms cool. When I was in my teens once a hole appeared in the front wall and a young friend put her head in and saw a huge drain. My mother had electricity put in, in 1952. Modern sanitation came to the bathrooms much later. The Deputy Commissioner used to allot these houses and the houses were dealt with by the Lucknow Improvement Trust.

Mostly Christians and Anglo-Indians used to live here. It was a great place to live in because the grounds in the centre were canopied over by huge *chilbil* (Indian elm) trees. The chilbil fruits floated everywhere and as children we would catch them and eat their seeds. There used to be a Christmas fete every year and on Easter Sunday, before dawn, a procession of people dressed in white and holding candles, would start from Maqbara and go to Zahoor Bakhsh Church. Many Anglo-Indians had come from Burma during the War. Five or six houses were given to Burmese evacuees, like the Wells, the Barkers and the Fishers. A net was fixed in the grounds and the young people used to play badminton and volley ball. It was so safe; we could play rounders and *gulli danda* outside even at ten at night.

After Independence many Anglo-Indians migrated to England and Australia and burnt their boats, as I say. They felt they were going to get a raw deal in India which actually we did not get. I think we did very well for ourselves because we were very dedicated, good and efficient in our work and never half-hearted about anything. We were in demand in whatever profession we chose. As for me, I became the pioneer of the beauty business here in Lucknow. In 1967 I took a course in beauty treatment and *The Times of India* carried an article on me headlined 'The First Name in the City's Beauty Business.' They had a picture of me. I no longer work because of my age but my name is still recognised and there are a few parlours that still have my name associated with them. I

became a franchisee of Shehnaz Herbal in 1976 and still own the franchise. I am glad God gave me the idea of becoming a beautician or else how would I have survived in my old age? I didn't think there was going to be a future in being a beautician. I sometimes wonder why I chose to become one. I was a trained nurse - a gold-medalist in nursing from King George's Medical College. I had joined the army and became a Captain. I resigned when I was transferred out of Lucknow, and then I worked as a private nurse till I decided to become a beautician. I went to Bombay for training and then helped run a slimming parlour here in Lucknow. Then I opened my own place. I knew nothing about the business at first. Most of my early clients either wanted to be waxed or have their skins bleached. I did all right.

Then, I said to myself, I'm a good talker so why not open a school. I started a beauty school and the first month itself I got twenty students. I was thrilled. I taught them about slimming, facials, how to do ordinary and bridal makeup - the works - hair care, skin care and everything. I caught the eye of *The Times of India* reporter who wrote a lovely report about me in 1976. I used to be very fond of jewellery and she wrote 'There she stands with two rings on every finger...' which was an exaggeration of course because those would have been a lot of rings. I only wore twelve rings at a time.

My medical knowledge helped me in my business. After all what is beauty except good health which shines through the skin. I used to write a beauty column, 'Nature's Beauty Secrets' for the *Northern India Patrika* every Sunday. It went on for years. I thought I knew nothing about beauty but then I wrote the column for years! I have a thick scrapbook of my columns.

Hazratganj today and the one I remember are as different as chalk and cheese. When I was young I used to order my shoes from Chinese shoe-makers. Jone Hing was one of them. They would make shoes to any pattern. I remember ordering shoes in white kid leather. The fashion in those days was block heels and I only wore block heels then. There used to be so many shoe-makers. Now there are none. Now even the Chinese restaurants are gone. Now everyone is cooking Maggi noodles and Chow Mein in their own homes. No one is buying anything in Hazratganj these days. I used to do all my Christmas shopping at Cheap House. The other day I sent the lady who works for me to Cheap House to buy me a soft toy that I wanted to gift to a child. She came back with this ugly monkey saying this is all that they had. What's the point in beautifying Hazratganj when no one is shopping here? They all seem to be shopping in Big Bazaar now.

I remember the picture houses and how delightful it was to see films in 3 D. And all the ballrooms! I particularly remember the Mayfair ballroom. I sang there twice when I was thirteen. On Saturday they would have an amateur

night at Mayfair. It was during the war and the ballroom would be full of soldiers. I would sing my song and come back to our table where my mother would be sitting. Once I sang 'There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover/Tomorrow just you wait and see' and on the second occasion, 'Danny boy'. I also sang 'Moon over Burma' on the radio. I didn't know when Cliff Richards lived here. We heard of him years later when he became famous as one of the Fisher boys. But I didn't know anyone who knew him when he was here. Many people still come asking about him and I point out a house and say he could have lived in this house or he could have lived in that house.

My father and his brothers had their own Band and they would play in various ballrooms. Daddy's Band used to play here in Lucknow for six months during the cooler season and then they would travel in summer to Simla and Mussoorie. I remember they would travel with their *suralhis*. The band lasted till my uncle died in 1964.

Hazratganj was very quiet and safe. You could walk on the roads without being insulted or teased. I used to come home from Medical College every second day and I would

cycle along the Gomti late at night and feel safe. I used to cycle everywhere. While I was in the army I would cycle between the Cantonment and Maqbara and not worry. Children could play and skip on the pavements in Hazratganj.

My parents married in St. Joseph's Church. There were many nice priests, all Italians, attached to the Church. And there was the St. Thomas More Club of which I was a member. There were about sixteen Anglo Indian boys and girls and we would go everyday and play games like badminton and basketball. This was around 1944-46. We would stage concerts and plays. We would go for picnics. I did my senior Cambridge in 1945.

I'm lucky I still have so many good memories and that I remember so much. It must have been all the fish I ate! Life was safe. We had our good days and bad days. I have nothing to regret as I sit here in peace.'
(Barbara Antunis is the pioneer of the beauty business in Lucknow.)

As told to Saleem Kidwai

PADMA SHRI RAJ BISARIA

British Rule in India. My father was a State Government servant with duties of touring all over. We lived in Dehradun. I was very happy as a child amidst wide green spaces and bushes with flowers of the salubrious cantonment area and my twilights and nights with shimmering, glimmering lights of Mussoorie fascinated me like twinkling stars, through tall glass windows of our bungalow. Suddenly my father was transferred. Uprooted we came to the city of Lucknow, I, not knowing that through my child's film of tears, a lifelong romance of daily encounters awaited me.

Living in a flat on the famous Sister Street of Hazratganj, I grew up in the dawns and dusks of Lalbagh. That fortuitous cold day in December 1944, a lonely nine year old stood on the threshold of a continuous to be romance with Hazratganj and Lucknow. Hazratganj was the first turn from my place in Lalbagh, and so my childhood, my adolescence, my youth have been woven around almost daily with the winds and seasons of Hazratganj. My school, St. Joseph's High School stood, where now the inspiring Cathedral stands, and it was in Hazratganj that my lessons of education, love and life started.

Hazratganj is in my olfactory sensibilities and has enriched my visual and intellectual sensibility. Right at the corner was Mayfair Cinema house, which was an institution in itself. It screened three to four changes of film a week, which was a veritable cinematic feast for a

young growing mind because I could see the work of the finest international actors and directors, and since I had decided very early in my life to work in the arts this was my first school of education into the dramatic and histrionic world.

Lucknow, till 1964, did not have a single auditorium and the finest concerts of musicians, such as Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan, and others were held here, and the great thespian Sombhu Mitra also appeared on the stage here. It was here that my introduction to great theatre personalities, such as Prithvi Raj Kapoor, Geoffrey Kendall, and Shombhu Mitra, led to a fruitful interaction. An exchange of ideas took place here, between me and Raj Kapoor, and a fine actress of the English stage, Jennifer Kendall, who later married the film actor Shashi Kapoor. I was moved by the sense of dedication and professionalism that many of these great artists possessed and the kindness they showed and the encouragement they gave to a boy in his teens. I saw all the plays of Prithvi Raj Kapoor in the early 1950s, and this was my first exposure to professional Hindi theatre, which would not remain professional for very long. Prithvi Raj Kapoor temporarily stayed opposite my apartment in Lalbagh, and after each play, we would have long discussions with him in Bhopal House. My fondness for Raj Kapoor grew, and he encouraged me tremendously. From Hazratganj I took him to Lucknow University for a close interaction with the students.

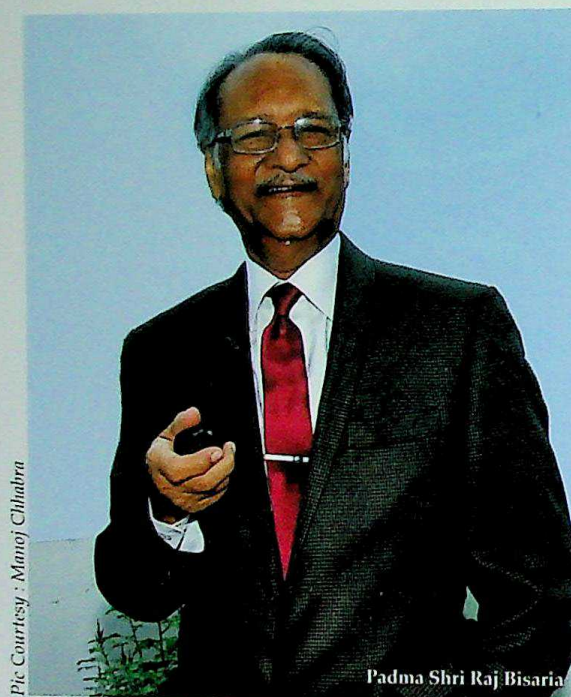
Apart from Mayfair, there were three other cinema houses that catered to the great cine-going population. Plaza in the middle of Hazratganj, with a lift which is working till date, screening films in English. At the end of the lane the Prince of Wales screened new films of Dev Ananda and Dilip Kumar. A

*I didn't know
when Cliff
Richards lived
here. We heard of
him years later
when he became
famous as one of
the Fisher boys.
But I didn't know
anyone who knew
him when he
was here*

hall also catering to cultural programmes was Capitol, in its days of glory in 1950s. Ram Gopal, the great Indian dancer performed here, and it also screened the first Cinemascope films, so together with this, with two cinema houses on the Lalbagh street, the other end of Hazratganj, there were a total of six cinema houses – two of which had stage space for theatre performances and other cultural programmes.

In Hazratganj I would meet Kendall off and on. He would stay in the Carlton Hotel, on Shah Najaf Road and we used to discuss many aspects of the living Theatre and I had many occasions of hosting him and his wife at my flat till the very end of his life. This theatre acquaintanceship grew into mutual respect and I covered his last production

Interestingly these interactions and intellectual artistic conversations took place while these celebrities and I strolled down Hazratganj, a stroll which would be termed Ganjing



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

Padma Shri Raj Bisaria

in Lucknow in the 80s in *The Times of India*. In later years, Dom Moraes the English poet, was advised by a common friend in Delhi to meet me here and we spent a few 'poetical evenings'.

In later years I met Mrinal Sen, the great film director, in front of Capoor Hotel with my senior friend Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, a journalist, film writer and director of films himself, and known all over the world as Raj Kapoor's writer of legendary films like *Awara*, *Sri 420*, and *Mera Naam Joker*. As he always stayed with me, Mr. Mrinal Sen also came over and stayed at my place. In 1968, I met Chetan Anand, the famous film director of *Neecha Nagar*, the first Cannes Film award winner in 1946, and we shared and compared our experience of poetic drama, which I staged in 1967, and a fully poetic film *Heer Ranjha* which he later produced.

Interestingly these interactions and intellectual artistic conversations took place while these celebrities and I strolled down Hazratganj, a stroll which would be termed Ganjing. Ganjing is what we all did. Ganjing is a word often used with a tongue-in-cheek connotation, loafing aimlessly, wandering like Wordsworth's cloud, sometimes some politely following pretty girls. That is as far as nascent Romance could go.

Yet as a regular visitor one would find the dons of the University strolling down Ganj with their journalist friends followed by attendant students. Dr R.N. Awasthi (Political Science), Dr. K.C. Srivastava (Western History), K.K. Mishra (Navjeevan) and a host of knowledge-seeking aspirants.

Hazratganj had a copiously stocked music record centre in Devi Radiogram which quenched the thirst for Omkar Nath Thakur, Begum Akhtar, to Suraiya and Lata Mangeshkar. In the early days of the music industry with the gramophone-playing records and a sound box with steel needle, Devi Radiogram catered to all needs of Indian classical, folk, and popular film music. The 1950s was the time before the long-playing record made its advent.

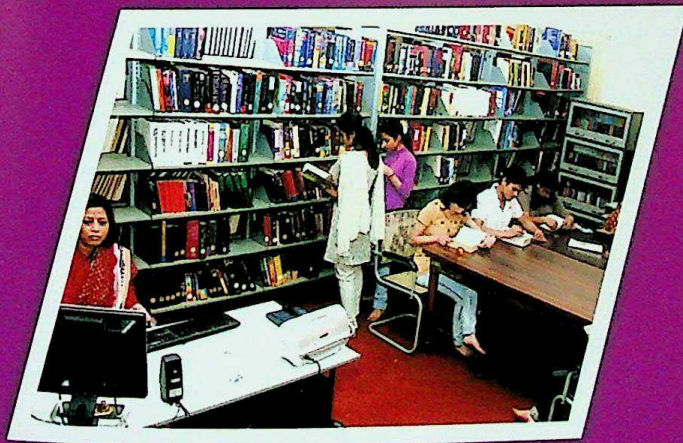
There were four major bookshops down the entire length of Hazratganj, catering to the variegated demands of an important University town that Lucknow was. As I went to college at Colvin and the University back in the 50s, I was intellectually stimulated by the presence of the great dons of the University, such as the awesome Radhakamal Mukerjee, the great D.N. Majumdar, the path finder D.P. Mukerjee, the scintillating intellect T.N. Madan, Dr. Saran, Professor S.K. Narain, Lucknow University's finest host of Lucknawi warmth and Shavian wit, Grace's paragon Mrs. Mohini Manglik, and many more could one meet at Universal or at Ram Advani's book shop. The book shops catered to different tastes of the young and the matured, from comics to Bertrand Russell, from the work of poets to the discovery of scientists. Universal and Ram Advani's book shops were the daily haunts of the young and teeming brilliant students and teachers of the schools and colleges.

At the end of Hazratganj there stood, where it stands now, the famous Coffee House, a Mecca, which was the daily hub of literary and academic personalities. The Hindi great literateurs and novelists like Bhagwati Charan Verma, Amritlal Nagar, and Yashpal could be hobnobbed with, as well as the greatest journalists such as the renunciate stoic M. Chalapathi Rau, the flamboyant Dr. S.N. Ghosh, the progressive Bishan Kapoor and S.M. Jafar, and many others. Here in this coffee house one could see senior and budding politicians such as Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Chandra Shekhar, Lalji Tandon, Dr. Dauji Gupta. Apart from this it also held some meetings of the Progressive Writers Association of Sajjad Zaheer, Razia Zaheer and others. I would visit eminent litterateurs and artists at their tables, in the Coffee House, and glean from

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their knowledge and experience in the Arts. My friend Kunwar Narayan, the eminent Hindi poet, and now the Gyanpeeth award winner, and R.S. Bisht, the famous painter, and the critic and teacher K.N. Kakkar, I would meet off and on in the Coffee House over a cup of coffee and scrambled eggs, which the Coffee House prepared rather well.

One could also find at the Coffee House artists and the intellectuals who had arrived, those who were forever on the verge of arriving, and those who would never arrive, with their greatest pretensions to art and culture, spilling their rabid criticism of all and sundry – from the creator to the pretender – the scene would always be very vibrant, controversial, and about to explode.

At the other end of the Coffee House, across the road, was a very fine delicate confectionary shop, Benbows, run by a Sardarji, demurely situated at the curve of the street. Its glass windows on two sides afforded an interesting view of the traffic passing by. The Sardarji's small restaurant offered the most delectable cakes and pastries, and here one would sit in the evenings, and discuss matters of the heart in the head, over a cup of coffee.

When restaurants came into their own in the early 50s, the ice cream people of Delhi opened up Kwaliti's in the Mayfair building- it became my place often for meals, my teas and evenings and they apportioned a corner to me

calling it the 'poet's corner'. Mr. Ghai, the proprietor, and his manager Jagdishji, were extra hospitable to me.

Hazratganj had romance in the air, there were dreams in young eyes, songs on lips, and pangs of unrequited love in hearts of young men as droves of beautiful girls as white swans descended on Hazratganj and the whole of Hazratganj would be a-flutter with fragrance and silken whispers. A smile here, a delicate wave of hand there and many a heart rose in song and broke in pain. It was here that one learned the first lesson of cloudy symbols of a high romance in the sky and I think many homes have been made because of these encounters and many more hearts unfulfilled, yearned on the pavements of Hazratganj.

Hazratganj was a living romance, a daily romance: its newness never withering, its charm never ageing. Now in my 70s, I still look at Hazratganj as an unfading beloved of dreams, and my youthful aspiration in art, and my eternal passion and pain of love. What Shakespeare said of Cleopatra, can lovingly be said of this blessed span – Lucknow's *nafees* earth: 'Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety.'

(Padma Shri Prof. Raj Bisaria is a legendary theatre personality, Founder Director of Theatre Arts Workshop & formerly Founder Director of Bhartendu Natya Academy, Lucknow.)

Based on interaction with historian Ravi Bhatt

MOHAMMED JAMAL RASUL KHAN, RAJA OF JEHANGIRABAD

You have to remember that everything actually starts 40 kilometres away from here – at Jehangirabad Estate in Barabanki District. That is where my forefathers lived for generations. That is where I spent my own early childhood.

Our large extended family occupied various wings and rooms of the old Fort on Jehangirabad Estate. Every morning, about a dozen children gathered in the Nursery, for lessons from our Governess, Miss Anne Hewett. When the Nursery stage was over we were shifted to Lucknow and later went off to study in Sherwood, in Nainital. But we came to this palace for vacations and so it became our home.

The main part of the palace was designed and built by my father, Raja Sir Mohd. Ejaz Rasul Khan Saheb, but there must have been an original *haveli* from earlier times, with additions made at various stages. Some bricks have been dug out of our front lawn stamped 1885.

My father told us many times over the years how Pandit Motilal Nehru had said to him: 'Education Means Westernisation'. This is what he believed. He acquired a genuine love for the Western lifestyle and adopted it with enthusiasm.....see the fireplaces in every room, and the

ballroom for entertaining his European friends. There used to be a grand piano and a cupboard full of sheet music: Chopin, Strauss, and the popular songs of the day. He was President of the British India Association of Taluqdars of the United Provinces from 1935 to 1940.

My father had a wide circle of friends which included British Governors and senior bureaucrats; the writer Desmond Young; the American architect Walter Burley Griffin, and many others with diverse backgrounds. But at the same time he also knew the iconoclastic revolutionaries who started the Progressive Writers Movement in Urdu Literature with their first official conference in Lucknow in 1936, and people like the Nehru family. So this is the kind of life he had, fully involved with all that was going on in Lucknow in those days.

If you want to picture what Hazratganj was like, try to imagine horses and carriages on the Ganj, and our ceremonial elephants crossing the road from time to time. You can see that the front portico of this house is high enough for an elephant and its howdah.

We used to keep deer – four black bucks which would frolic on the lawns and even come into the house. Many an afternoon, if the gate was not properly shut, they would skip out and race on the Ganj, chased by a policeman who had nothing better to do in those slow-traffic days. When we couldn't keep them any more they were given to the

At the other end of
the Coffee House,
across the road,
was a very fine
delicate
confectionary
shop, Benbows, run
by a Sardarji,
demurely situated
at the curve of
the street

Lucknow Zoo. We acquired tiger cubs at one time and here they are in this family photograph... so you can say that tigers also lived on the Ganj! Anyway, later they too had to be given away to the Zoo.

The area where you now have the Tulsi Cinema complex used to be the area for our tennis courts and our stables. My father's sisters would travel frequently between Lucknow and Jehangirabad Estate by carriage, and the horses were changed in relays. When cars took over, our carriages were sent to Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi, to be used by the first President of India. It was General Enaith Habibullah who made the arrangements for this transfer.

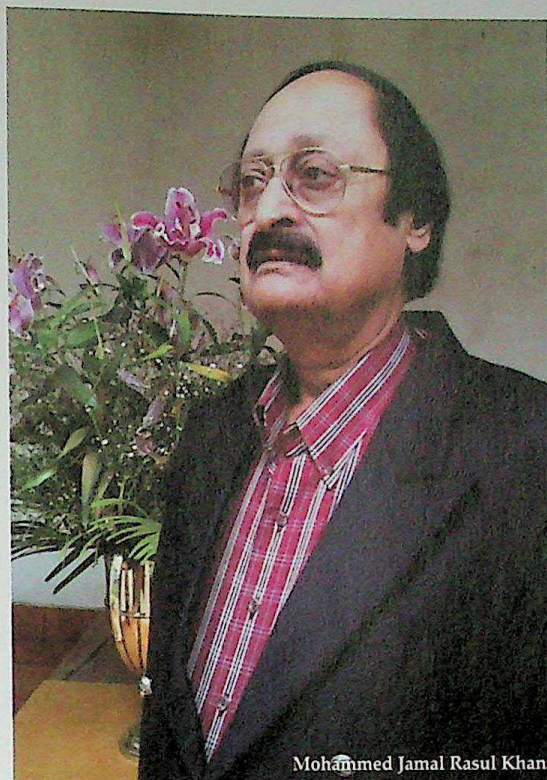
During my school years we had two horses named Toby and St. George. They spent the winter in Lucknow and went up to Nainital in summer where we had a beautiful summer home. The whole household migrated to the cool hills. It was here that Desmond Young sat down to write his famous book *The Desert Fox – The Story of Rommel*. He had served in the British Army in North Africa during World War II, and fought against Rommel, Hitler's legendary General. This thrilling first-hand account was turned into a successful movie starring James Mason.

In its heyday, this Palace was managed by more than 50 servants, almost all of them from Jehangirabad, who had served our family for generations. They lived with their families in sprawling quarters on one side. There was a separate spacious bungalow which was our private residence – you can see it beyond the back garden.

We also had an *imambara* and various big and small apartments for family members – in fact the whole compound was like a vast, self-contained *mohalla*. This part of the Palace, where we are now, was where my father entertained his guests.

The servants were always in crested uniforms. There were at least four chauffeurs for our collection of cars. The kitchen and its staff occupied a whole section of the house. Rajab Ali, who was a fourth generation cook, specialised in making kormas. He had two assistants, so his only job was 'handi chalana' – 'stirring the pot!' Another cook made only roti, *sheermal* and *bakarkhani*. Wafati was the one who knew the family's secret recipe for the famous *shab degh*, a nourishing stew of mutton and baby turnips cooked in a hearty broth. The recipes were never written – they were handed down from father to son.

For Continental food there was a separate chef with his own assistants. Sir Harry Graham Haig, who was the Governor from 1937 to '39, was a family friend, and he and Lady Haig were frequent dinner guests. Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett succeeded him as Governor from 1939 to '45. When they were leaving, Lady Hallett sent us her cook, Sharif Khan. She wrote nostalgic letters to my mother from England, saying that among the things she missed the most was her cook and kitchen staff!



Walter Burley Griffin, most famous for designing and building the city of Canberra in Australia, arrived in Lucknow with his wife in 1935 with only one project in hand – the designing of a Library for Lucknow University. This architect couple happened to meet my father and they became great friends. My father appreciated their forward-looking, modern style of architecture, which was something very new and innovative at that time. He commissioned them to make the Zenana Pavilion in Jehangirabad Estate. Walter Griffin found himself in great demand and received at least 40 new commissions in and around Lucknow. Sadly he could not complete them all as he died after a short illness and was buried here in Lucknow.

My father insisted that my mother continue her education, and she studied diligently with tutors who came to the house. (She got her Master's Degree in English Literature as a private candidate from Aligarh Muslim University in 1956.) One of her tutors was Razia Sajjad Zaheer, an Urdu poet and short story writer who questioned the prevailing restrictions on women in a male-dominated world. Her husband, Sajjad Zaheer, was the leader of the emerging Marxist thinkers demanding social justice and equality, and co-writer of the book *Angarey* which caused an immense furore when it was published in 1931, and was banned for obscenity! Another co-author was a passionate woman named Rashid Jehan, who later went on to be a gynaecologist and became the personal

*In its heyday, this
Palace was
managed by more
than 50 servants....
They lived with
their families in
sprawling quarters
on one side. There
was a separate
spacious bungalow
which was our
private residence....*



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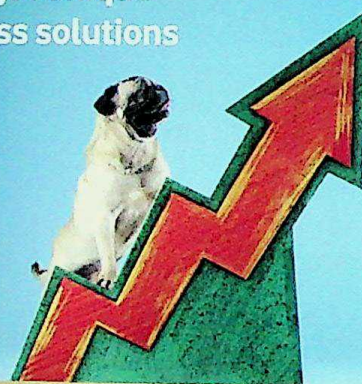
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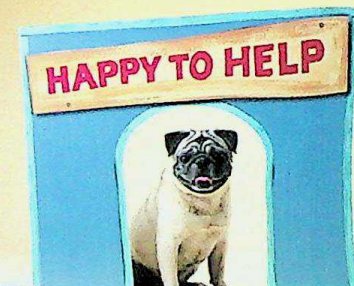
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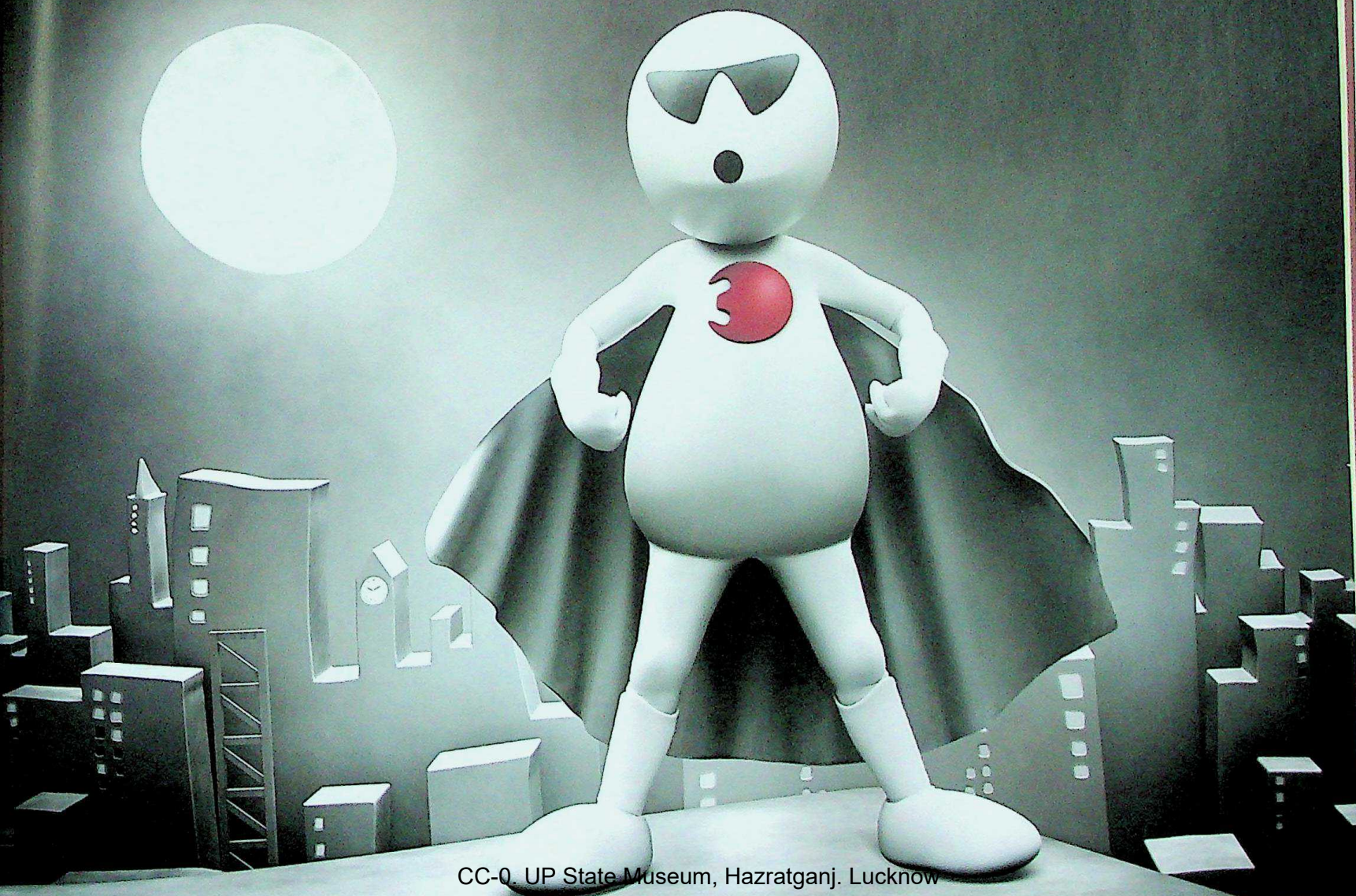




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physician of my mother. During her frequent visits to our home she would kindly offer to give my teddy bear injections to make him well!

So you can understand how my mother gradually came to respect these women and their beliefs. In time she gave away land in Jehangirabad Estate to that disciple of Gandhiji, Vinoba Bhave, for his Bhoodan (land donation) Movement, and to the families of all our servants and staff.

Our governess, Miss Hewett, became an English teacher and companion for my mother, and a housekeeper on whom everyone relied. I remember the joy and excitement of Sunday mornings when I was still quite young, when Miss Hewett would take me and my friends to Mayfair to see the Cub Club Movie, followed by patties and pastries at Kwaliti's.

Often Miss Hewett would prefer to take us to Benbow's corner teashop because she loved the hot chocolate there! We used to take a window seat, looking across Hazratganj, at the opposite corner block of Jehangirabad Mansions and the little tree-shaded temple – we were actually sitting inside the view so beautifully painted by the artist Phyllis Norton. She was a local girl and her father was a good friend of the well known bookseller on the Ganj, Mr. Ram Advani. When she gave the painting to my family I am sure

she never dreamed that one day this painting would be turned into a commemorative postage stamp in the year 2011 to celebrate the 200th Birthday of Hazratganj!

1986 was a landmark year in many ways. The Festival of India was held in New York, showcasing the rich art and culture of India. Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was coordinating the display of miniature paintings, with the renowned expert on Indian art, Stuart Carey Welch. She was also interested in traditional Indian textiles and embroidery. In connection with her work she came to Lucknow and it was my great privilege to meet this remarkable lady. Her smiling charm put everyone at ease. She used to walk across from Clarks Awadh Hotel and spend hours at our house, relaxed and informal, thrilled to see the gorgeous, intricately embellished *ghararas* and *jamaawar* shawls modelled by my nieces. She gave me a signed photograph of herself taken by Lord Snowdon, and we corresponded for some time. She made me see that we can never take our heritage, our art, and our traditional skills for granted – we have to respect them, nurture them, and preserve them.

(Mohammed Jamal Rasul Khan is the present Raja of Jehangirabad.)

As told to Nasima Aziz

ZARINE VICCAJEE

Miss Zarine Viccajee, President of the Parsi Anjuman (Society) for the past eight years, revealed a treasure house of interesting facts about the Parsi connection with Lucknow, and Hazratganj in particular. Miss Viccajee is the fifth generation of the first Parsi settler in Lucknow, a pearl and silk merchant called Nawrojee Damkawala. He arrived in the city on horse-back during the reign of King Mohammed Ali Shah (1837-1842) and fell in love with this fabled city of courtly mannerisms, *nafasat* (elegance), *nazakat* (grace), *tehzeeb* (culture) and *shireen zuban* (sweet language) to make it his home. His choice in selecting an area for his residence could not be other than Hazratganj where the East mingled with the West and Ganga-Jumna (Hindu-Muslim) culture prevailed in all its finery and refinement. It was the Nawabi era – a period for traders and merchants to flourish and prosper – in the affluence of the city.

The virtue to adapt themselves to the environment and the trust they developed simultaneously with the locals and the British, needs no mention. From trading pearls, silks and precious artefacts in the courts of the Nawabs, the Nawrojee family with their inherent Parsi virtues of business acumen, philanthropy, honesty and progressive thinking, diversified into fields such as local transportation and hospitality services; creating a carriage-making

business based from their Avanbai Mansion in Hazratganj, and establishing the Prince of Wales Hotel (where the Secretariat Annexe stands today), thereby boosting and improving business opportunities for the city. In later years the same venue was changed into an automobile showroom that proudly flashed the latest foreign-made luxury cars and limousines and now houses the main Lucknow Branch of the Indian Overseas Bank.

Not very long ago, in the building opposite Raj Bhawan where Aryan and other business houses trade, there was Sohrabjee Debus' wine and liquor establishment, displaying the best foreign labels with an assurance of quality and authenticity. Their shop stocked a very wide range of imported spirits and Indian-made liquors with an impeccable reputation of being honoured as the purveyors to His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces.

Similarly in Hazratganj was Messrs. Minoo & Dinshaw, the famous Parsi watch-dealer and popular silverware shop. It carried world-famous brand names in wrist-watches, clocks and portable timepieces. It was no surprise to find in Hazratganj a genuine premium brand with assured guarantees and the maker's after-sales service. The shop not only carried Swiss-made chronometers but also goods from Japanese, German and English firms, the quality manufacturers of the day. Their well-equipped workshop and proficient watchmakers were once the final word in the Ganj Market. In keeping with the best standards, their hallmark and sterling silver artefacts,

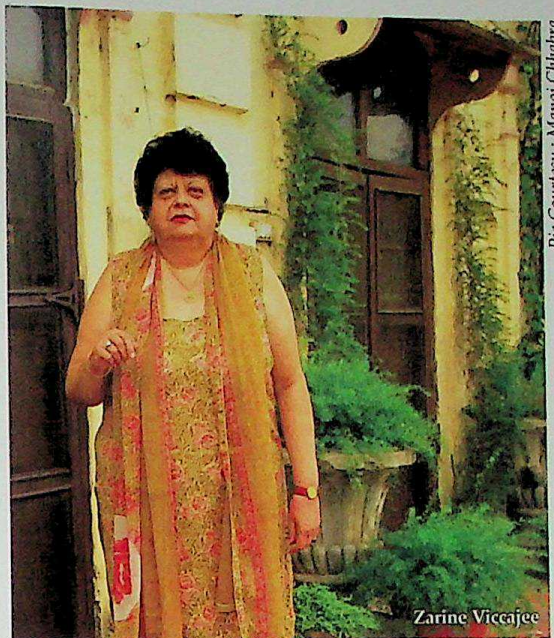
*I remember the joy
and excitement of
Sunday mornings
when I was still
quite young, when
Miss Hewett
would take me and
my friends to
Mayfair to see the
Cub Club Movie,
followed by patties
and pastries
at Kwaliti's*

cutlery and tea-services were coveted gifts for the elite. Today this shop is no more and in its premises is a book shop. At the entrance to Janpath Market there is a lone building which a few years ago was a Parsi family-run business. Taraporewala's elegant show room with Singer, Meritt & Pfaff sewing machines where a variety to choose from and unparalleled back-up services to the customers was provided until the day it closed down (to give way to the garment retail outlet Koutons), 'trust-worthy guidance remained their forte'.

The Parsi Anjuman was built in Parekh Bagh (now Mira Bai Marg, Hazratganj), on land donated by a Mr. Parekh in the late nineteenth century. Here stands the prayer hall with provision for the residence of the high priest and the Anjuman's various offices. In the area at the back are a few blocks of residential quarters exclusively for Parsi families. It is unfortunate that despite its best efforts the Parsi Anjuman, of late, has not been honoured by a resident Zoroastrian priest (*dastoor*) and has to do without one, or invite one from Kanpur for religious ceremonies like Navjot, Jashans and marriages. Jamshedi Navroze, Pateti and other festivals are also celebrated in the Anjuman premises. As for the festivities and celebrations, so for the bereavement and mourning ceremonies, the Parsis of Lucknow dispose of their dead by burial. There is a large Parsi grave-yard in the Narhi district, called Hormuz Bagh, which has been donated by Manekji Nawroji, an ancestor of Miss Viccajee.

Lucknow's small Parsi community of about 140 members, is fast dwindling today but continues to make a large contribution to society and its beloved Hazratganj. The achievements to the community are worthy of every pride, honour and mention in the golden annals of Lucknow. Zarine Viccajee herself was in the faculty of the prestigious former Loreto Convent College (now the Awadh Girls Degree College) for twenty-two years as Head of the English Department, and is now its manager. Miss Viccajee lives with her sister Rudi, Rudi's husband Ashwani and their two children Asheesh and Sunnaeya, right in the heart of Hazratganj in the ancestral Avanbai Mansion. Heiress to a huge Hazratganj property of ten shops in a row beginning from the British Book Depot, some of which in 1960 were sold to Sahu Investments, a large estate still remains to care for.

Talking about her parents Zenobia and Burjor Viccajee, who were married in 1947, Zarine states that her father hailed from the illustrious family of *mansabdars* of Vicarabol near Hyderabad in the Deccan. He was the great grandson of Seth Viccajee Meherji (1783 to 1854) an uncrowned king of Hyderabad, who received accolades from the East India Company. In an incredibly short time Seth Viccajee Meherji, along with his brother Seth Pestonji Meherji, had achieved extraordinary success and fame in



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

Zarine Viccajee

their three-fold role as traders, bankers and farmers. From 1832 to 1842 in their own Aurangabad mint, over a crore of silver and copper coins of various denominations were struck bearing their initials and signifying the power, prestige and royalty of the family. A few original coins are still with their descendants and four are on display in the British Museum in London.

Zarine's late father was connected with Wadia Movietone and was staying in Lahore when her maternal grandfather fell seriously ill and expired in 1949. Her parents returned to Lucknow for good, to take care of the inherited estate. Both her parents were renowned social workers, running several charitable institutions and through the aegis of the Lions Club in Daulatganj her mother ran a 'temple of health and wealth' serving the destitute and the needy. The Nawrojee family, well-known for its philanthropy and social upliftment always worked tirelessly for the community at large. Keeping up with these traditions, Zarine continues the good work and strictly adheres to the motto 'Smile, you are in Hazratganj.' Apart from her own business interests she spends her time promoting literary activities and plays. She loves Urdu poetry and *ghazal* recitals, her favourite being Ghulam Hasan. Speaking in chaste Urdu with the Lucknawi diction, very unlike other Parsis, she not only represents her community but the liberated spirit of women. Proud to be from Lucknow and proud to be of Hazratganj.

"Lakhnau hum par fida, hum fidai Lakhnau;

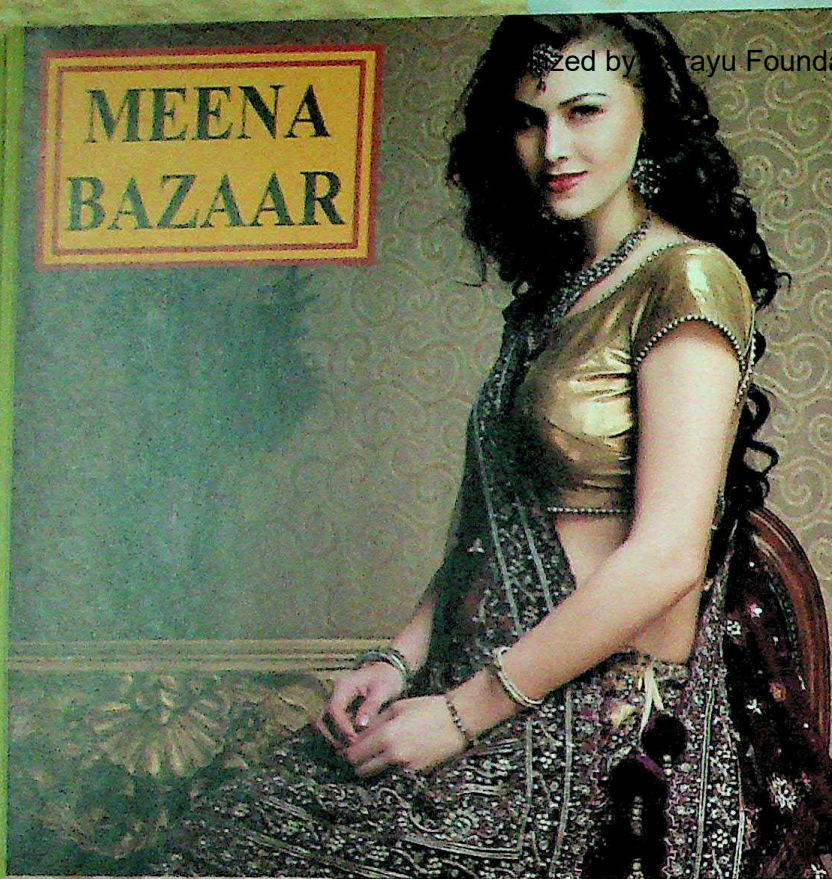
Asman ki kya haqeequt, jo churdhaye Lakhnau."

(Zarine Viccajee is an educationist and the President of the Parsi Anjuman of Lucknow.)

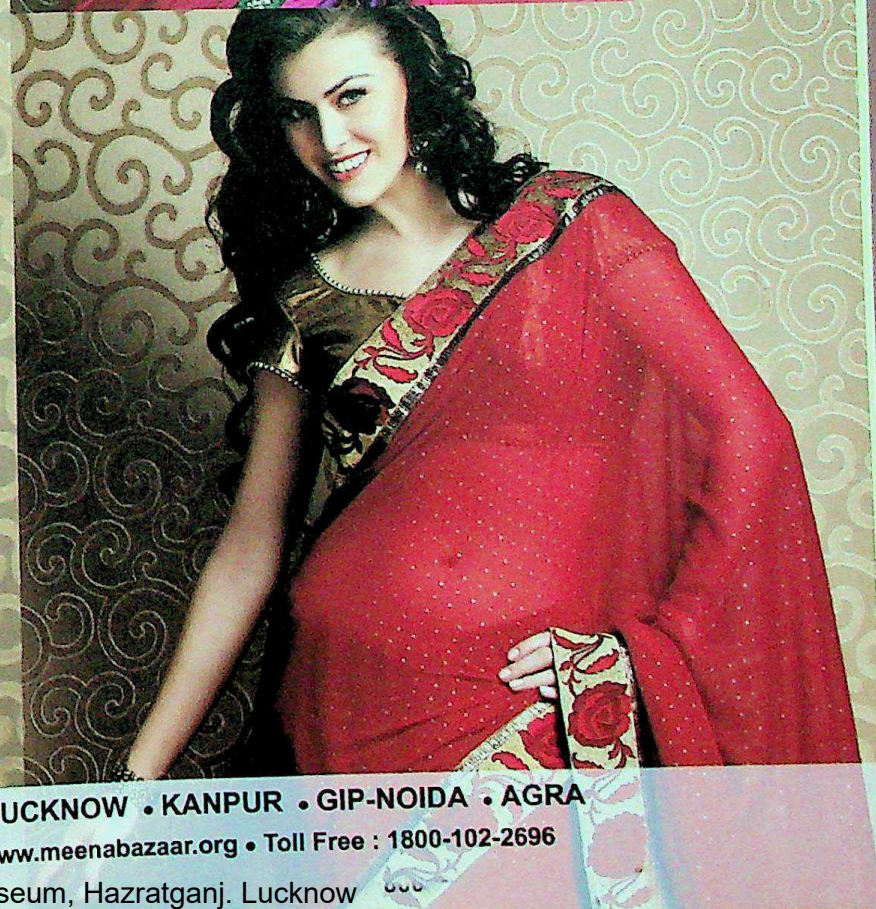
As told to Mohammed Rizwan and Ashfaq A. Khan

*In keeping with the
best standards,
their hallmark and
sterling silver
artefacts, cutlery
and tea-services
were coveted gifts
for the elite. Today
this shop is no
more and in its
premises is a book
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Old Roads, New Names

By Rosie Llewellyn-Jones

Strange as it may seem, Hazratganj was not actually named as such until the early 1850s. Before that it was simply described as 'the new road'. Its name probably came, as we have seen, from the mausoleum of 'Hazrat' Amjad Ali Shah, the tenth Nawab, who died in 1847 and who was buried in the Sibtainabad Imambara, on Hazratganj.

It seems clear that before the British takeover of Awadh, and its capital Lucknow, in 1856, the traveller moved around between different areas, not along named roads. Someone going to Rakabganj, for example, would simply set out along the road that led to this particular mohalla, without needing the name of the road that took him there.

Much of Lucknow was named either for the person who owned a particular piece of land, like Tikaitganj, after Maharaja Tikait Rai or from particular occupations and inhabitants of a certain area. 'Sabzi Mandi' was clearly the vegetable market, 'Chobdari Mohalla' the place where the mace-bearers lived, and the curiously named 'Gend Khana Jadeed' was a new area for ball games, most probably a racquet court. 'Nakhas' was originally the horse-market, and Gau Ghat the river area where cattle went to drink.

It was the British who gave many of Lucknow's roads their first names after annexation in 1856. The idea that identifying and naming streets was a particular tool of colonial power is

not a new one. Whole books have been written on the significance of British map-making in India, which was much more than the simple desire to know where one was going, and much more to do with what new territories, and therefore power, had been acquired.

Not surprisingly then, the majority of Lucknow's British-named roads reflected conquest and administration – names that were put in place after annexation and retained, in some cases, long after Independence in 1947. Indeed, it is quite extraordinary for a foreigner, as I am, to hear the names of Neill Road and Outram Road still used by older people, without a trace of irony. Colonel James Neill was responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent Indian people during the great uprising of 1857-58 and died during the recapture of Lucknow. Sir James Outram, a clever and brave officer, was nevertheless the man who demanded, and got, the submission of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah to British annexation.

Much of Lucknow's history is written in the names of its roads and a proper study should be made of them, and their significance, by an Indian scholar.

For now it is worth pointing out that although we commemorate some of the great names in Indian history with Rani Laxmi Bai, Rana Pratab, Shivaji and others, where are the names of the men who actually created Lucknow? After much

The majority of Lucknow's British-named roads reflected conquest and administration – names that were put in place after annexation and retained, in some cases, long after Independence in 1947

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



HAZRATGANJ, AS QUINCY TUBBOGH, Hazratganj, Lucknow

Outram Road now Ashok Marg

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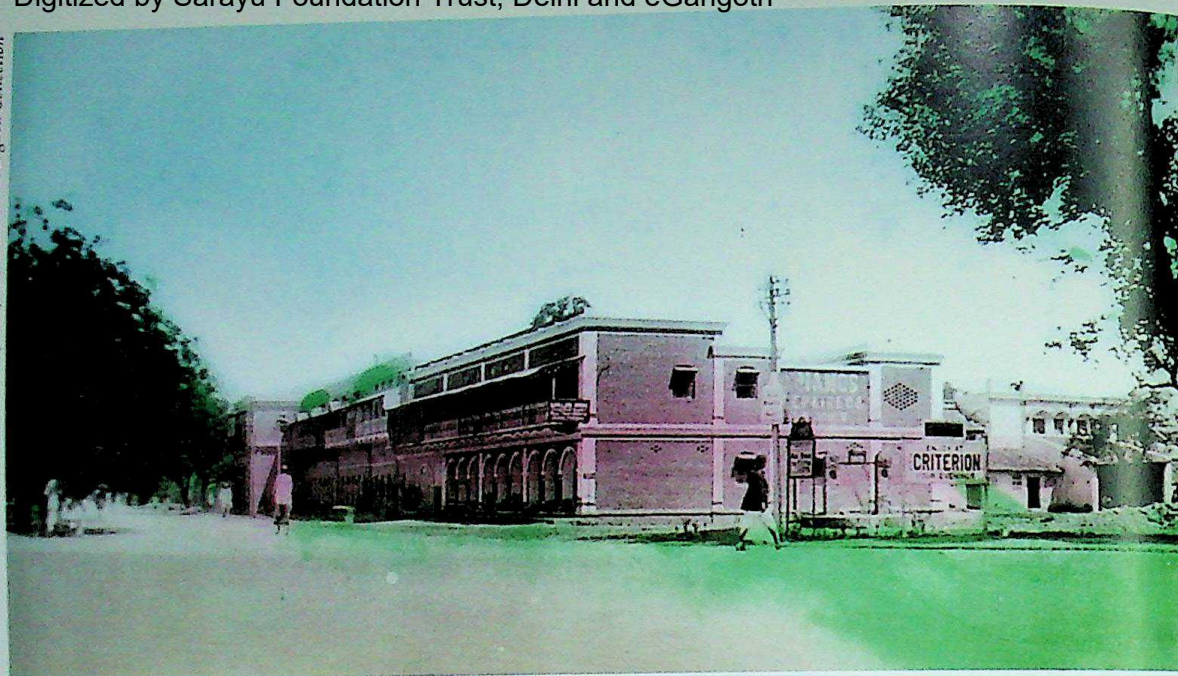
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Lawrence Road now
Newal Kishore Road

Hazratganj has undergone a number of name changes. Known in British days as Queen's Way, with an echo to Janpath, the portion from the Ashok Marg crossing to Tulsi Cinema is now Mahatma Gandhi Marg

Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection



lobbying the old Garden Reach Road in Kolkata has been renamed as Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Road. Shouldn't we do the same for at least one road in Lucknow? Surely a small portion of Hazratganj could be renamed Nawab Saadat Ali Khan Road. After all, if it hadn't been for this Nawab's foresight, and his gift of town-planning, this celebratory book would not exist today.

Hazratganj has undergone a number of name changes. Known in British days as Queen's Way, with an echo to

Janpath, the portion from the Ashok Marg crossing to Tulsi Cinema is now Mahatma Gandhi Marg. The continuation of Hazratganj from Tulsi to the Residency is now Rani Laxmi Bai Marg. The British created a junction here, outside Jehangirabad Palace, cutting through the old nawabi buildings. Many people assume that Hazratganj continues westwards along the old Strand Road, today's Mahatma Gandhi Road, but this is not so. Those who truly love Lucknow know where the old roads lie.

SOME OF THE OLD ROADS OF LUCKNOW AND THEIR PRESENT-DAY NAMES:

Old names	Present day names
Abbott Road.....	Vidhan Sabha Marg
Barrow Road.....	Bhim Rao Ambedkar Marg
Bruce's Bridge.....	Hanuman Setu/Monkey Bridge
Butler Road.....	Tilak Marg
Cantonment Road.....	Bisheswarnath Road
Chamberlain Road.....	Moti Mahal Road
China Bazar Road.....	Chakbast/Osama Talha Road
Clyde Road.....	Rana Pratap Marg
Hewett Road.....	Shivaji Marg
La Touche Road.....	Gautam Budh Marg
Lawrence Road.....	Newal Kishore Road
Neill Road.....	Rani Laxmi Bai Marg
Outram Road.....	Ashok Marg
Oliver Road.....	Sapru Marg
Queen's Way (Hazratganj).....	Mahatma Gandhi Marg
Quinton Road/Routledge Road.....	Valmiki Marg
Saunder's Road.....	Madan Mohan Malviya Marg
Victoria Street.....	Tulsi Das Marg



खादी तथा पॉलिवस्त्र की बिक्री के लिए नया आयाम



विपणन विकास सहायता (MDA)

खा.ग्रा.आ. द्वारा प्रस्तुत एमडीए योजना सभी हितधारकों को सफलता के समान अवसर प्रदान करती है।

ग्राहकों के लिए-

ग्राहकों को नगद छूट के अलावा निम्न लाभ भी मिलेगा। -

- खादी / पॉलिवस्त्र की बेहतर गुणवत्ता
- बेहतर माहौल वाले बिक्री केन्द्र
- खादी / पॉलिवस्त्र में बेहतर डिजाइनों का समावेश, प्रशिक्षित बिक्री कर्मियों द्वारा बेहतर जवाबदेही,
- अधिक से अधिक बिक्री केन्द्रों की उपलब्धता

संस्थाओं के लिए-

- खादी संस्थाओं को एमडीए की सहायता को आवश्यकता के अनुसार उपयोग करने की स्वतंत्रता है।
- एमडीए प्रारंभिक तौर पर अग्रिम के रूप में दिया जायेगा जो तिमाही आधार पर प्रतिपूर्ति की जायेगी। उसके पश्चात कार्यशील पूंजी की उपलब्धता की समस्या नहीं रहेगी,

- दावा निवटान तथा पुनर्भुक्तता की सरल प्रक्रिया।

कारीगरों के लिए-

- एमडीए कारीगरों-कत्तिन/बुनकरों की आय में बढ़ोतरी को सुनिश्चित करता है
- उपकरणों का आधुनिकीकरण तथा अधिक अर्जन क्षमता की सभावना प्रदान करता है।

सरकार/खा.ग्रा.आ. के लिये-

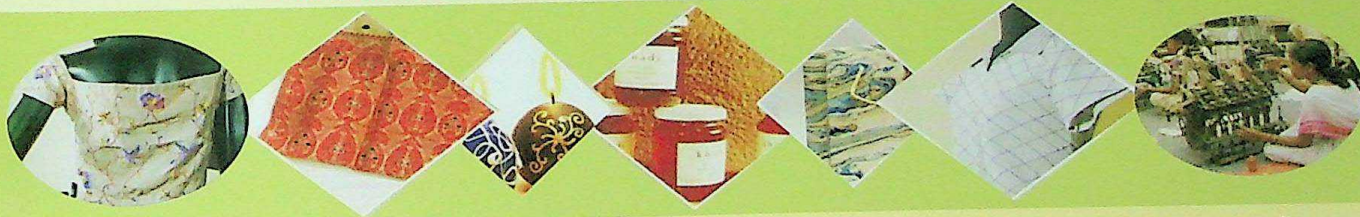
- वैकल्पिक तौर पर सरलीकृत
- दावा फॉर्मेट से बेहतर नियंत्रण।
- परिवर्तनशील क्षेत्रों में खर्च के उपयोग को मॉनीटर करने में सहजता।
- कठिन प्रक्रिया को कम करने से प्रक्रिया की सरलता।
- त्वरित बिक्री से संस्थाओं के कारोबार तथा रोजगार के अवसरों में वृद्धि।
- राज्य सरकारों द्वारा दी जाने वाली रिबेट के साथ पूर्ण अनुकूलता।

खादी सुधार एवं विकास कार्यक्रम

खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग ने खादी सुधार एवं विकास कार्यक्रम हेतु एशियन डेवलेपमेंट बैंक की सहायता से खादी में अधिकाधिक रोजगार सृजन कारीगरों की बेहतर मजदूरी एवं खादी की बिक्री की संवर्द्धन/प्रोत्साहन हेतु 150 मिलियन डॉलर की राशि स्वीकृत की गयी है। इस परियोजना में कुल 300 खादी संस्थाओं में सुधार की लक्ष्य रखा गया है जिसमें प्रथम चरण में 50 संस्थाओं को लिया गया है तथा उ0प्र0 की 10 संस्थाओं को चयनित किया गया है। खादी सुधार हेतु निम्न क्षेत्रों में सहायता प्रदान की जायेगी-

- कारीगरों की आय एवं सशक्तिकरण
- कच्चे माल की प्राप्ति एवं उत्पादन
- उत्पादन प्रोत्साहन

- खादी मार्का का विकास
- विपणन संगठन
- खादी संरजम स्तर पर सुधार



खादी संस्थाओं, कत्तिनों व बुनकरों के लिए आकर्षक योजनाएं

खादी कारीगर जनश्री बीमा योजना

- वीमिंत कामगार द्वारा नामित व्यक्ति को मृत्यु, दुर्घटना या अपंगता की स्थिति में ₹0 30,000 से ₹0 75,000 तक का बीमा राशि का भुगतान।
- शिक्षा सहयोग योजना के अन्तर्गत कामगार के अधिकतम 2 बच्चों का 9वीं से 12वीं कक्षा तक ₹0 2400/- वार्षिक छात्रवृत्ति (₹0 1200/- प्रति बच्चा)

खादी वर्कशेड योजना

- विगत वर्ष में खादी आयोग द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश हेतु 2000 वर्कशेड स्वीकृत।
- योजनान्तर्गत खादी कत्तिन/बुनकरों को कार्य हेतु बेहतर सुविधाएं।
- प्रति कामगार को ₹0 30,000 से 45,000 तक की आर्थिक सहायता उपलब्ध है।
- खादी कामगार वर्कशेड निर्माण।

- स्फूर्ति, प्रोडिप, आर आई एस सी, उत्पादकता वृद्धि योजनाएं।
- प्रधानमंत्री रोजगार सृजन कार्यक्रम योजना

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“भारत में हम जो उत्पाद सृजित करते हैं, वे समृद्धि बुनते हैं।”

CC-0. UP State Museum, Hazratganj, Lucknow

A Rejuvenated Ganj

By Chander Prakash

A city is a live and a pulsating extension of nature's gift to mankind. Home to so many dreams, aspirations and a collective endeavour to reach out to the unknown.

Lucknow is a melting pot of cultures, religions and languages each individually so refined that the aroma that emanates can be nothing short of an aroma of love, respect, humility and compassion. A city known the world over for its 'Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb', *adab*, heritage and culture; a city once compared to the greats like Constantinople; a city once referred to as the literary capital of the Hindi world, a centre point of the Urdu language; a city which prided itself on the respect for others, respect for all religions and elders - Lucknow is a city of multifaceted religions and languages, bound together by one language - the language of the heart.

Lucknow has culture, it has history, heritage and above all it has fantasy which makes its position unique in the world.

The completion of 200 years of Hazratganj was a perfect opportunity to rekindle the past, an opportunity to refocus attention to this great vibrant city, an opportunity to showcase this city's *adab* and *tehzeeb*, an opportunity to preserve and pass on this great heritage to our children, who in their unidirectional approach to life, seem to have become oblivious of what Lakhnau stood for and what it was.

This 1km small stretch has captured the imagination and captivated all those who traversed its path. People from all over the world are still fascinated by this small

wonder, which has caught their fancy and those connected with this part of the world often go into a nostalgic tizzy at the mention of 'Ganjing'.

Hazratganj is whatever it is thanks to being a part of this inherently vibrant, warm and friendly city. We have all inherited a culture which not only does us proud but also gives us a responsibility to not only maintain what we have inherited but also try and spread it to as far and away as possible.

This is the Lucknow we wanted to catch up with and pass on before it was lost - an effort with like-minded citizens to create pride in our citizenry, heritage and culture as a strong foundation to take on the global challenges of the future and initiate a momentum, where through the preservation and restoration of this bazaar known the world over, we could start a ripple of a movement for the restoration of bazaars all over the country.

This passion took us beyond the stupor of the fantasy world and into action. Discussions were initiated with eminent citizens, like Padma Vibhushan Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Lord Khalid Hameed of Hampstead, CBE, DL, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri Dr. Mansoor Hasan, Padma Shri Muzaffar Ali, Ram Advani, Padma Shri Prof. Raj Bisaria and many others.

Interactions also took place with Nasser Munjee, an internationally acclaimed infrastructure professional, who had formulated a detailed development plan for Ganj.

Discussions started in earnest and the Hazratganj Traders Association (HTA), an organization of Ganj Traders established in the late 1980s, was sounded out.

Gradually what appeared a dream since 1998 was actually

People from all over the world are still fascinated by this small wonder, which has caught their fancy and those connected with this part of the world often go into a nostalgic tizzy at the mention of 'Ganjing'

Pic Courtesy : Mr. Ashesh Srivastava



HAZRATGANJ GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, Hazratganj, Lucknow



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

being conceptualized. Pessimism gave way and a new wave of enthusiasm took over. The Hazratganj Traders Association, through its energetic team, took on the cudgels of getting across to the stakeholders and occupants of the 1 km market stretch. A consensus was being created, amongst the divergent views.

It was now or never! Like-minded citizens got together and 'Connect Lucknow' was born. Requests were made to the government seeking its participation and with the full support of the U.P. Government, the project took on a dimension like never before. The seed had been sown and a new synergy had developed - between Government, Traders and Connect Lucknow.

The Government became the centre point and suggestions, possibilities alternatives started flying around and development plans for the entire area were initiated. Mr. Prashant Trivedi, Divisional Commissioner, Lucknow, took charge and Asheesh Srivastava, an architect of stature in the field of heritage preservation and a man with a passion to transform Lucknow, was brought on board. Lucknow Nagar Nigam, Lucknow Development Authority and Jal Sansthan started buzzing with activity.

Regular meetings of Connect Lucknow, HTA and district officials became a norm.

The hoardings had not only disfigured the skyline of Hazratganj, but distorted the basic structure of the market. They were targeted by the Nagar Nigam. What appeared to be impossible was taken head on, and with deadlines not being initially met, the Lucknow Nagar Nigam took upon itself the task of pulling down the massive iron structures. It was indeed a herculean task with lakhs of tons of iron being pulled down in the span of a few days. The buildings heaved a sigh of relief, and once exposed, revealed the ornate imprints of the yesteryears, now an awesome sight.

With the project gradually taking shape, the multilevel parking became an important part of the rejuvenation exercise. The Old Kotwali bore the brunt and the century old structure was brought down to make way for the requirements of the coming decades. Though great care was taken to ensure that the façade of the structure blended with the archaic ambience of its neighbours, it did raise eyebrows and concerns which caved in to sustained reasoning. A rejuvenated Ganj with a committed parking would not only provide succour to the shoppers who went up and down



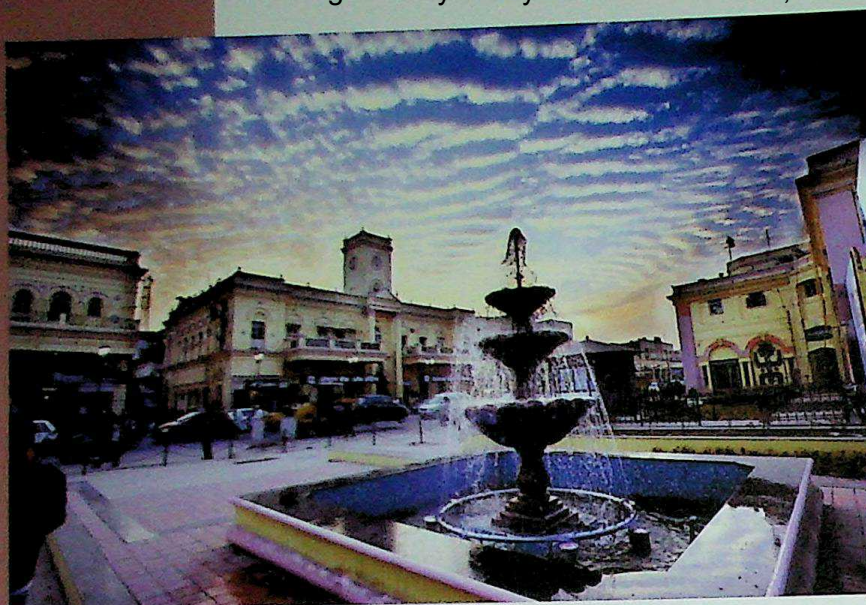
Too much information! Intrusive hoardings almost covered the buildings before renovation

It was indeed a herculean task with lakhs of tons of iron being pulled down in the span of a few days. The buildings heaved a sigh of relief, and once exposed, revealed the ornate imprints of the yesteryears, now an awesome sight



How it was - panoramic view from Vidhan Sabha Road (left), across Hazratganj (centre) and along Ashok Marg (right)

Pic Courtesy: Manoj Chhabra



▲ A fountain brings a touch of class to the Ganj

Manufacturers were identified and samplers with different sizes and colour codes put up... Finally after initial hesitations the 3 Ft wide Black background, with White embossed backlit lettering got the nod

► As dusk falls, pedestrians relax on the new benches

the market looking for parking space but would also further enhance the aura of the market place. Getting it operational on time was a challenge and it was taken head on by the Lucknow Development Authority. Frequent modifications in the design due to suggestions from the residents, traders and stakeholders did delay the project, but despite those hurdles, the work was moving at an extremely fast pace and it was hoped that a part of the multilevel would-become-operational-along-with-the-market.

While Hazratganj was the target of attention, the area around Ganj was also sucked in. Lalbagh, Bhopal House and Janpath too followed suit. The encroached parking space around Bhopal House was converted into a park and added to the aesthetics of the surroundings. Janpath was declared a 'no parking zone' and entry for vehicles inside Janpath was stopped. Fountains were erected at the entrance and green spaces were introduced.

Due to the long stretch of the market and pleas from citizens and occupants, the government decided to have an additional underground parking at the Sarojni Naidu Park, beyond the Halwasiya Market. The work was started in earnest in 2011 and is due for completion within a year.

Asheesh, the architect, was being tested, his drawing board was charged like never before. The imagination of the HTA was stirred and ideas started taking shape. Discussions on identical signages of the shops in Ganj, to single colour code for the buildings also became the talking points. Participatory possibilities including financial sharing with the government became a discussion issue.

The HTA got into the act. Numerous meetings were held with all the members, contentious issues were torn apart within closed doors, and a semblance of unanimity was brought about. Senior members pitched in their might and the office bearers of the HTA were authorized to take

decisions in the interest of the city and the market.

In the spirit of participation and as an example for participatory development of bazaars in the country, it was decided to share the burden of the rejuvenation with the government. The HTA decided that it would take over the responsibility of the repair, restoration, painting and signage of the outer façade of the market, while the government would take care of infrastructure creation, etc.

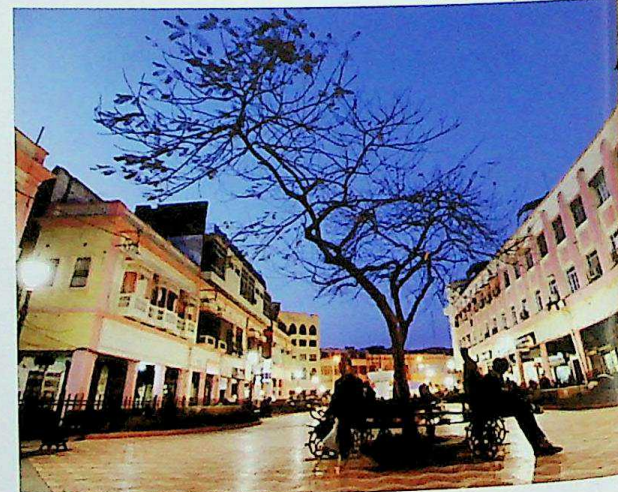
Having burnt the bridges the only option was to move ahead and fast! December became the deadline and August was evaporating. The HTA got into the act and took on the task of creating a common financial pool. The task was daunting indeed. Conversing was one thing but actually performing and getting the contributions into the kitty was surely another matter but their never say die attitude kept them going at a brisk pace. Members were divided into categories based on their professional status, potentialities and area in their charge. The momentum picked up from a trickle and gradually brought them closer to the target but yet quite far, far away. Disappointed members, not interested members and misinformed members added to the list of woes. Once again senior members pitched in and the wall was pierced.

Discussions on the common signage gave way to a flurry of possibilities and objections. From multi-coloured, to restricted size signages, to no commonality all were equally and aggressively contested and finally the consensus on common colour with common sizes.

Manufacturers were identified and samplers with different sizes and colour codes put up. The black, bottle green, brown, dark blue with white lettered back lit boards were put up for opinions from public, Members and Government. Finally after initial hesitations the 3 feet wide Black background, with White embossed backlit lettering got the nod.

Having graduated to the next level, the colour of the outer façade of the buildings became a point of discussions.

Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra





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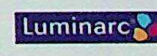
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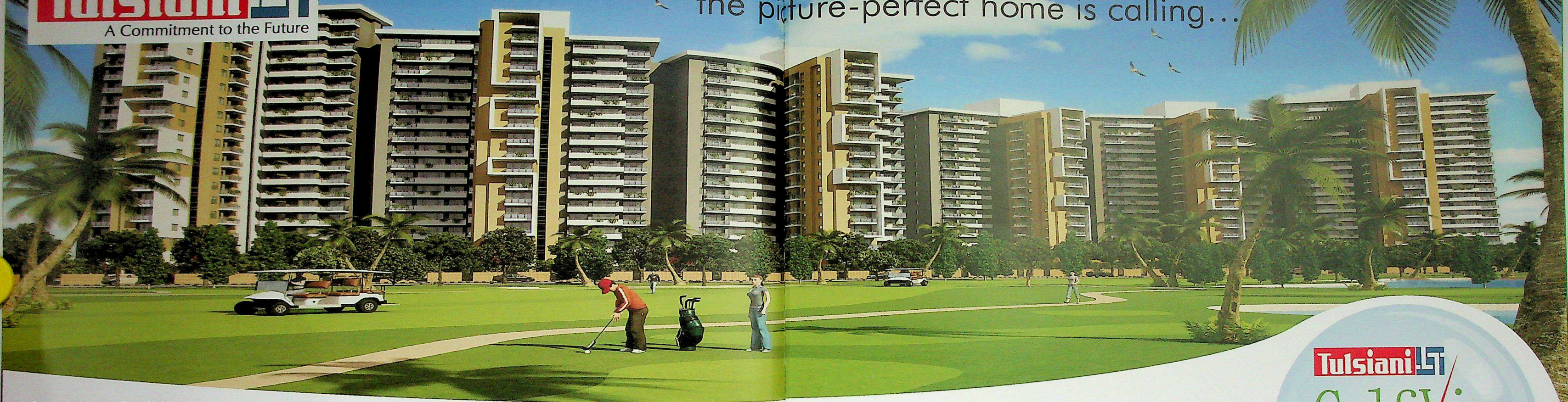
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Halwasiya Court, the sophisticated Art Deco apartment block - decorative metal railings now line the street

The modern Hazratganj that we witness with regular arcaded shops with uniform signage constructed on both side of streets with mixture of Mughal and European architecture took shape in British rule

Greening the Ganj with carefully protected trees

Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra



To the White of the recently painted DRM to shades of the rainbow, all went flying around, but finally in good sense they put their faith on the original Cream and Pink exterior of the yesteryears.

We reached the state of take off, but there were hiccups yet, some stakeholders who were still towing their own independent paths. Connect Lucknow came to the rescue and demolished dissent with repeated pleas while the institutional stakeholders and other occupants gave in to repeated pressure and persuasions from the administration.

While the Hazratganj Traders were at wits end to start their side of the Ganj story, the government was heads down ensuring that the work was accomplished within the December deadline. What appeared to be a certain impossibility became a dream fulfilled. Mr. S.K. Singh, Municipal Commissioner and Mr. Mritunjay Kumar Narain, Vice Chairman, Lucknow Development Authority, gave their full attention, monitoring the progress with the minutest of details. Their officers worked day and night shoulder to shoulder with their workers and contractors. They were there upfront braving the scorching sun or the persistent rain, continuously edging their team forward, whether it was in laying of the sewerage system or in laying of the storm water exit, water supply and the fire fighting system. The entire team of engineers of the Lucknow Nagar Nigam and the Lucknow Development Authority did a commendable job. The State Power Corporation too pitched in with the underground cabling system and by ensuring continuous power supply. What should have taken at least a year or more was accomplished in a period of about 5 months.

Working at such a feverish pace would naturally have put the entire area in Ganj and around inaccessible. That was truly the case. For the entire period of September,

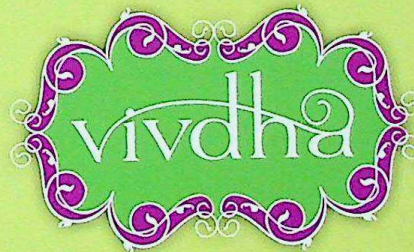
October, November and December 2010, Ganj looked like a disaster zone with potholes, opened roads, incomplete sewer lines, no water connections, telecommunication networks disrupted, hazards to visitors and so on.

But the HTA heroes bore it all, without even a murmur, no questions asked, they suffered in silence for over 3 months. Diwali time, festival time, a fantastic time of the year for business, to sell and clear off the wares collected



Pic Courtesy : Ar. Ashish Srivastava

*Experience
the feminine
charm...*



INDIAN ETHNIC WOMENS WEAR

M-3, GOLE MARKET, MAHANAGAR, DELHI. UP State Museum, Hazratganj, Lucknow. 2003, FUN REPUBLIC MALL, GOMTI NAGAR, TEL. : 4005621

*There was music in
the air... we had
done it! The
impossible
resurrecting of a
market place with
the magnitude of
restoration
required and in a
short span of
5 months,
was all done*

patiently over the proceeding months was a total wipeout. With traffic being diverted from the Ganj stretch and traffic jams all around, Ganj became a no visit zone for all practical purposes. Yet they bore it all, reassuring each other of the magnanimity of the occasion, and the hope that a resurrected stretch would rekindle not only their internationally famous market, but would also be talked about all over the world. They were proud occupants of a world famous market and fortunate to be around on its 200th year.

While the Government and the HTA were in full flow, the Connect Lucknow team was not only burning the midnight oil sitting with the architect and his planning board, but were continuously on their toes monitoring closely all the transformations that were taking place. Coordinating with the traders on one end and the administrative machinery on the other end, checking up and deciding on the samples, be it the grills or the lamp posts, they ensured day and night the acceptability of the new surroundings. Continuously monitoring and making changes on the ground and on the planning board, they could lay claim to be 'Change Masters' in motion. As proud citizens of this vibrant city their commitment was unparalleled and their support was unconditional-save the resurrection. They were the real unsung heroes of the transformation.

In their attempt to take the Lucknow of yesteryears to the new generation, Connect Lucknow conceptualized a

cultural outreach programme with eminent lovers of Lucknow reaching out to schools and colleges in the city. The history of Lucknow, along with its tehzeeb and adab, chikankari and cuisine were the talking and video presentation points.

Two hundred years of Hazratganj was also another opportunity to have the event recorded in the annals of history. A chance encounter with the Secretary of the Philately Society opened up the possibility of having a Special Cover on the occasion released. Col. Kamlesh Chandra, Chief Post Master General Uttar Pradesh, was indeed very kind. He said, "During the mutiny and rebellion of 1857, Hazratganj was almost decimated. But the British also could not resist themselves from reconstructing Hazratganj in 1860s. The modern Hazratganj that we witness with regular arcaded shops with uniform signage constructed on the both side of streets with mixture of Mughal and European architecture took shape in British rule. But it is evident that the essence of unique composite culture of the city was never lost in renovations and reconstructions and still the place is heartbeat of the city. On completion of 200 glorious years of Hazratganj, Department of Posts, released a special cover along with its special cancellation on June 25, 2011."

The jigsaw puzzle was finally falling into place, the sewage system in Ganj was in place, the cables and the pavements were being laid and the installations of the lamp posts had started. The multilevel parking was taking



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

▶
A pleasant garden now
faces the Central Bank

CC-0. UP State Museum, Hazratganj, Lucknow
HAZRATGANJ | A JOURNEY THROUGH THE TIMES



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

Consistent black and white signage ties the whole street together today

To recreate the romance of the past Victorian-style lamp posts, benches, railings and other street furniture was integrated into the designs

shape, the emergency inlets and exits were being mapped. The deadline was fast approaching, while a lot of work was still in progress. The adrenalin was soaring high. The workforce was exhausted having worked through the months continuously, with Diwali night not being an exception. Deadline of December was postponed to January and all breathed easy.

The outer façade was still not complete, the hoardings had disfigured the facades and the roof tops and the buildings were taking in more repair than initially visualized. Additional teams of contractors were pushed in and the work accelerated and in a do-or-die situation, brought the work to fruition.

Remnants of the unfinished infra-structural work were completed. The lamp posts and the benches were in place, the outer façade was bristling with colour, the three feet wide black and white backlit signages had taken the 1 km stretch back to the marketplace of yesteryears. The basement and some part of the ground floor on the multilevel parking had also become operational.

January 2011 saw the completion of the project. A dream had culminated in a fantastic way - a tribute to all that Lucknow was and stood for... There was music in the air... we had done it! The impossible resurrecting of a market place with the magnitude of restoration required and in a short span of 5 months, was all done. Kudos to all of those who were part of it and of course to the Government which made it all possible!

Mr. Satish Chandra Misra, Member of Parliament and Chairman UP State Advisory Board, said, "The rejuvenation of Hazratganj on the occasion of its 200 years was an opportunity to showcase the intent of the Government's commitment to give due attention to urban renewal. The initiative and the synergy of the Government

with the traders and the citizens was exemplary and the speed and the finesse with which the entire project was completed in a record time of a few months is a example of the Governments resolve and a module for the rest of the country to emulate."

Kishin Chand Bhambhawani, President of the Hazratganj Traders Association, has been witness to Ganj in motion. He said, "What initially looked like a dream and seemed unreachable could happen due to the tremendous goodwill, networking between Government, Traders and Connect Lucknow, and above all the courage of the members of HTA to withstand heavy losses during the period of renovation, without a complaint. This movement proved that given the commitment all old bazaars in the

'Purple Haze' fountain in a previously neglected corner



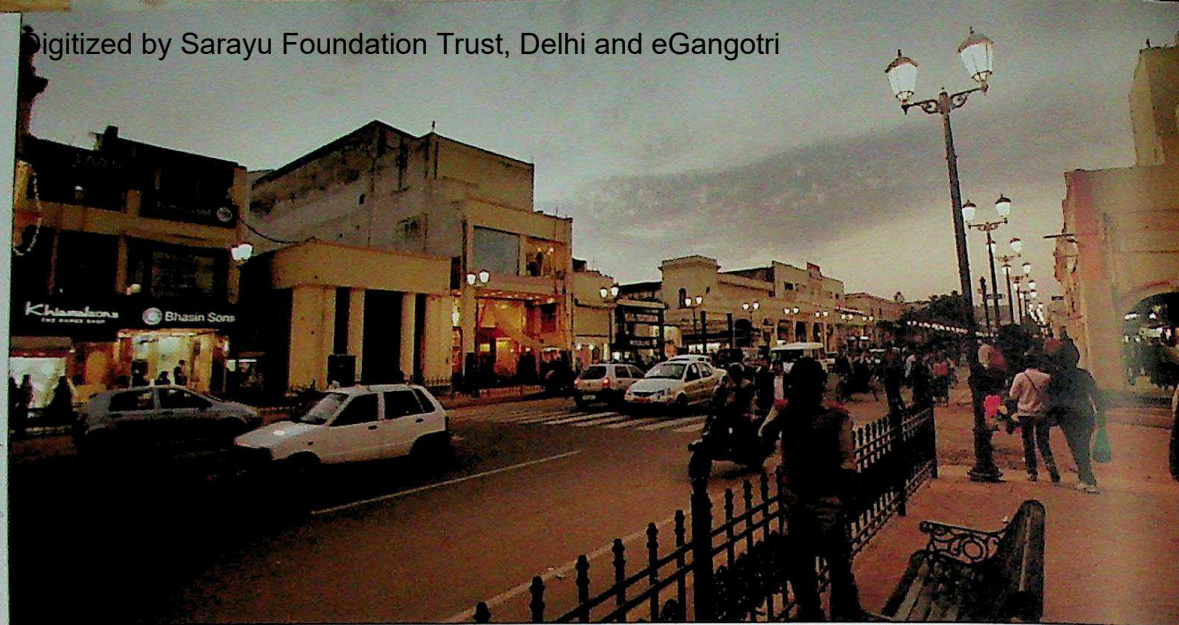
Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

Victorian-style lamps are
lit on a winter evening

*Hazratganj defines
the most elegant
and gracious
aspects of the
personality of
Lucknow. In fact,
there is no city in
the world which
combines in such a
small area of space
such an array of
attributes and
functions as
Hazratganj does*

Elegant simplicity
during the monsoon

Pic Courtesy : Mamoj Chhabra



country could be given a facelift on this model. The transformation journey had not been easy but the Government support, the goodwill of the citizens of this city and the end justified the collective faith. The HTA pooled in our own resources, innovated continuously and through a highly motivated team force had restored, repaired, painted a market stretch of 1km in the shortest time possible."

Father Paul Rodrigues has been a Principal of both Cathedral and St. Francis College, for many years and a senior Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Lucknow. He has been witness to the evolution of the area in and around Ganj for long. In his words, "It was really commendable how the citizens, traders and the government rallied around the concept of reviving the lost glory of Lucknow through the opportunity of 200 years of Ganj. Now they should not abdicate their responsibility to maintain what has been created. I am sure the rejuvenation of Ganj will be a forerunner to Lucknow becoming a sought after

tourist destination."

Ar. Asheesh Srivastava, the architect, was a happy man, "Ganj has been a tremendous challenge. Ganjing, which was inherent to the city was the main driving force while visualizing its rejuvenation. Our endeavour was to bring back the glory of the market place while also celebrating the spirit of Ganjing. Continuous stretch of pathways was incorporated on both sides of the 1 km street. The footpaths are not just pathways but have all the elements of interactive urban space. The Fountains, piazzas, amphitheatres, Victorian-style lamp posts, benches, railings, and other street furniture were integrated into the design," he said.

The Ganj of yesterdays had arrived once again. From a defaced market, with a skyline hidden by huge ghastly iron structures, dug up incomplete pavements, to a regular chaos of cars moving in and out without enough parking, visitors walking on the roads in the absence of pavements, wires entwined in the façade so aggressively and across the roads, the journey to the Ganj of today has been stupendous.

Ganjing made its presence felt once again with the saunter, the swagger and mannerisms of those who traversed through it. Ganjing of the yesteryears was the smart and elegantly dressed leisurely saunter of the evenings by the young and the not so elderly. The domain of the entire cross-section of society vying to be noticed and flaunt their association with the city and with each other. The buildings were breathing easy, the signages elegantly placed, the benches welcoming and the Victorian-style lamp posts shining romantically, way into the night. Hazratganj was truly dressed up and ready for the next few decades. Hazratganj transformed is a delight to watch and be a part of.

Mr. Navneet Sehgal, Secretary to the Chief Minister and

Pic Courtesy : Mamoj Chhabra



a pillar of support for the entire transformation, said, "With a view of ensuring the smooth implementation of the governments commitment all the agencies concerned with the development activities were duly activated and the project was given special attention given the time frame and the importance associated with 200 years of Hazratganj. Implementing this time bound project was a planning challenge for this already operational central business district. It is a matter of pride that all the agencies coordinated effectively to ensure proper completion of the project."

Padma Shri Dr. Mansoor Hasan, a Senior Consulting Cardiologist and a resident of the city, said, "The recent restoration of Hazratganj is, for me a beginning of a new life journey for this charming and living monument of syncretic culture and city life. Ganj will remain not just a place of business transactions, exchange of money and goods but a delicate symphony of civilized culture- one of grace, pleasing architecture and a reaffirmation of polite way of city life. We all hope that not only the buildings, roads, civil amenities would continue to improve but also the 'aura' of beauty and a fragrance of warm human relationships could bloom-where the nostalgia of love and affection would console our hearts and become memories forever."

Lord Khalid Hameed CBE, DL, Padma Bhushan, who has not only done Lucknow proud but has always been around for the cause of his city, shared, "Hazratganj is a special name known nationally and internationally with

people who have had any links with Lucknow. It has been a showcase of this very special town. Hazratganj has survived its protracted period of recent neglect and decline and has now re-emerged as a pleasant sight for sore eyes encapsulated all around by the blight of urban degeneration."

In the words of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, Chair of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and who spent his early formative years in Lucknow, "Hazratganj defines the most elegant and gracious aspects of the personality of Lucknow. In fact, there is no city in the world which combines in such a small area of space such an array of attributes and functions as Hazratganj does. The rich personality of 'Ganj' rests on its attraction as the prime shopping location in the city, an open air and mobile social club, a rendezvous for the subtleties of a Lakhnavi romance and a place of entertainment. Those of us who hold a wealth of nostalgia associated with the old image of Ganj have been deeply distressed in the past few decades at the decline in the ambience of this beautiful centre of Lucknow.

Hence, the facelift that Ganj has benefitted from, is a marvel that fills the hearts of all Lakhnawis with immense pride and satisfaction. The restoration of Hazratganj has not only given it a modern air, but has carefully preserved its unique and historic character. No praise is adequate for the efforts of Connect Lucknow and the authorities who made this aesthetically outstanding transformation a reality."



Pic Courtesy : Ar. Ashesh Srivastava

Hazratganj defines the most elegant and gracious aspects of the personality of Lucknow. In fact, there is no city in the world which combines in such a small area of space such an array of attributes and functions as Hazratganj does

◀ Traffic reduction on the Ganj has lowered pollution and noise

Then & Now



Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

The Baillie Guard Gate at the Residency c.1858



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

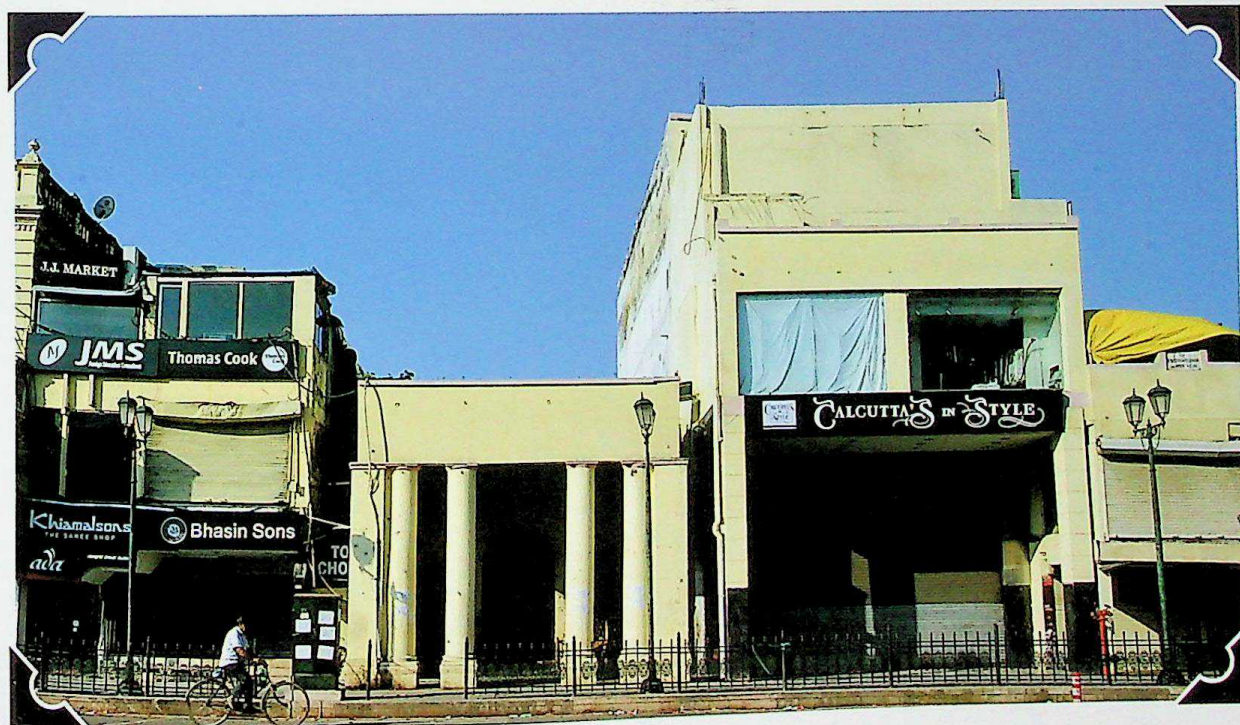
The heavily restored gate today

Then & Now



Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

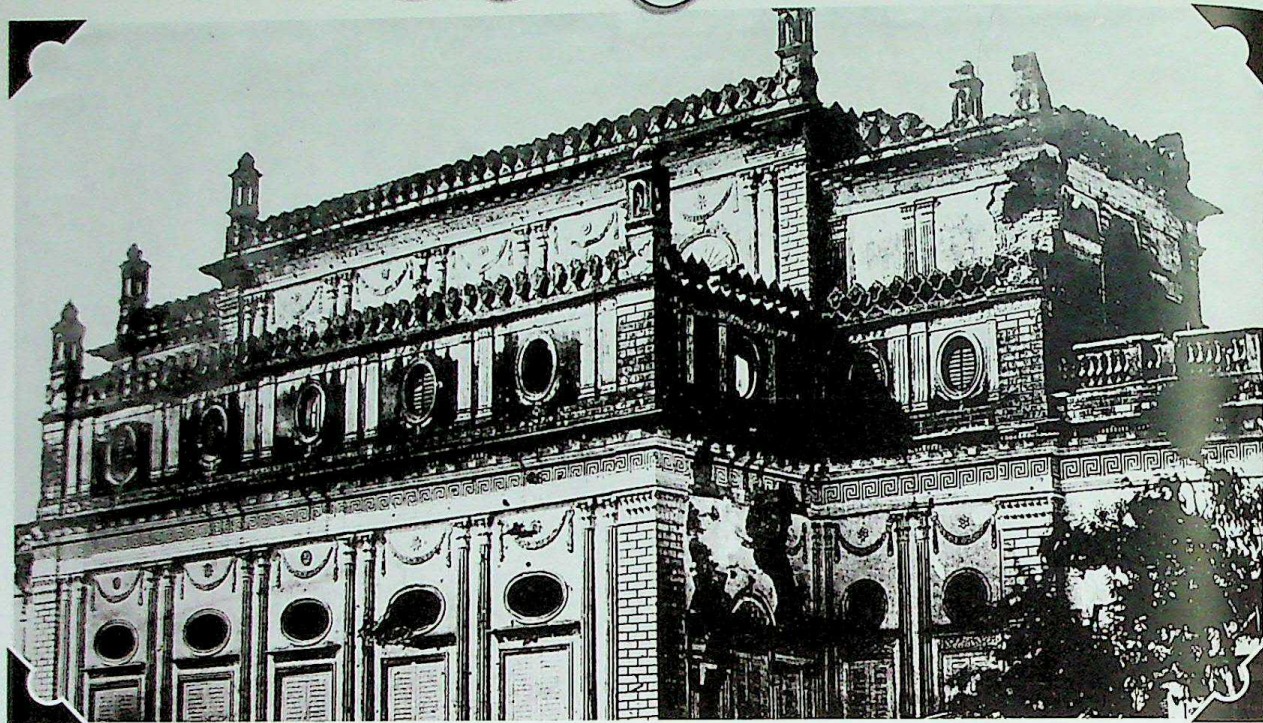
The City Gospel Mission, an American charity



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

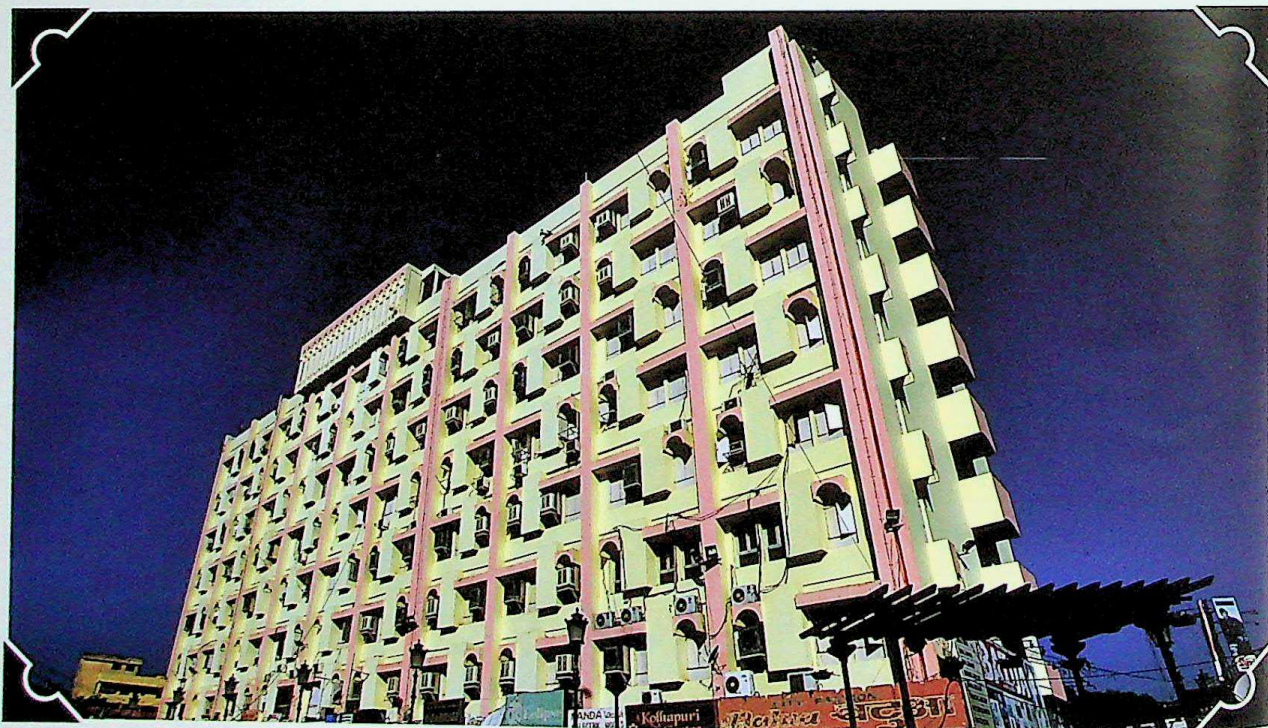
Only the portico remains

Then & Now



The Begum Kothi, demolished in 1977

Pic Courtesy - The State Museum, Lucknow

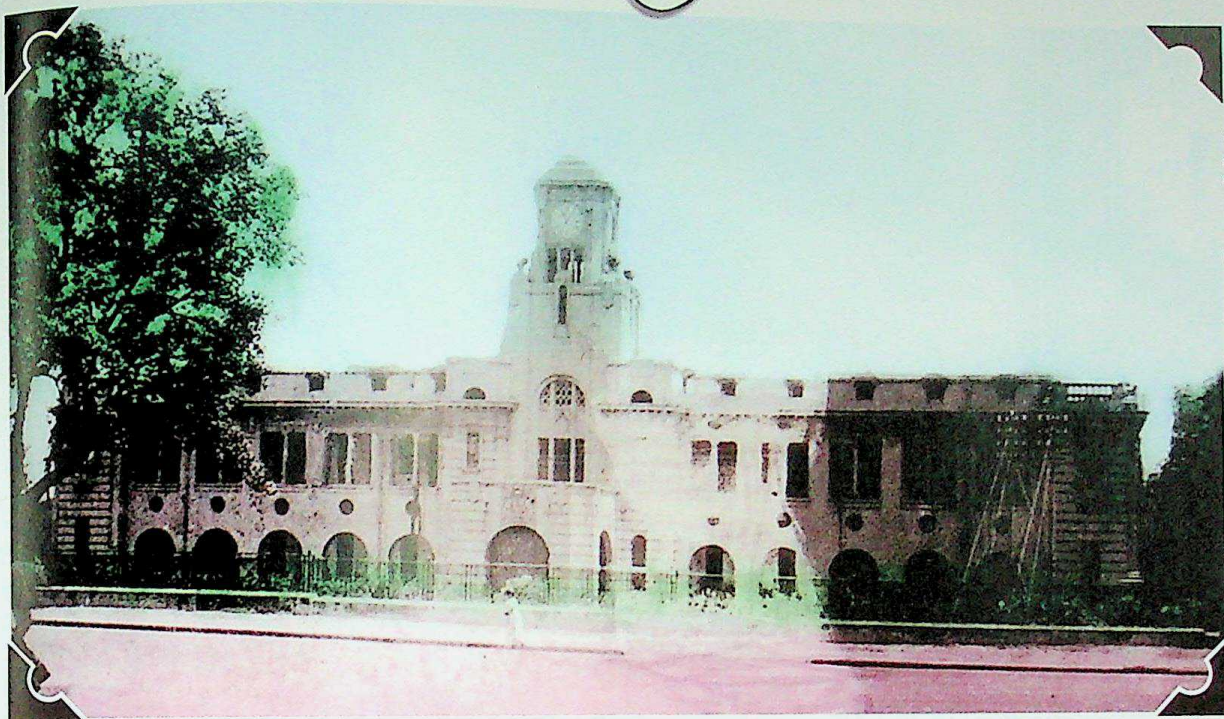


Pic Courtesy - Manoj Chhabra

Janpath Market high rise, today

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Then & Now



Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

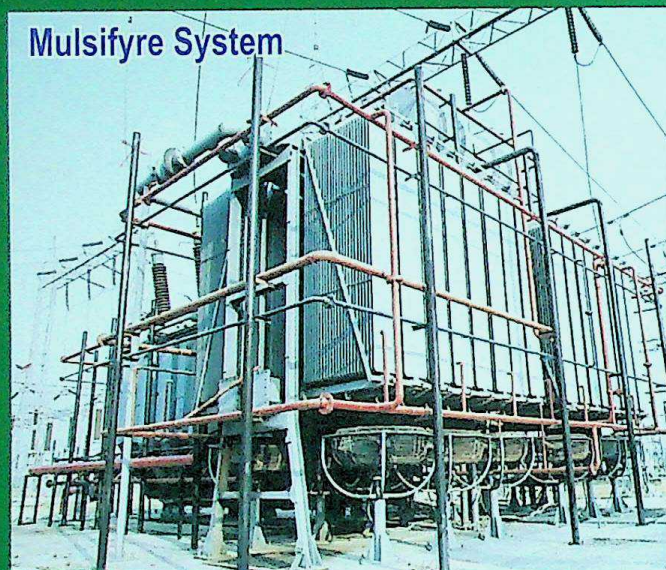
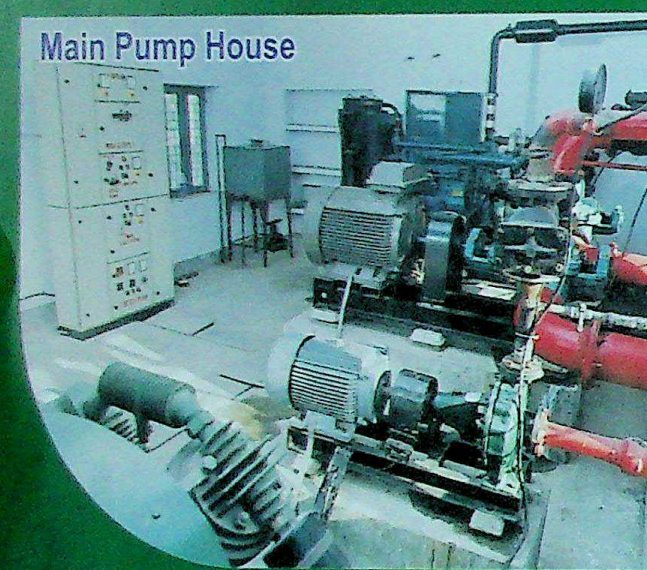
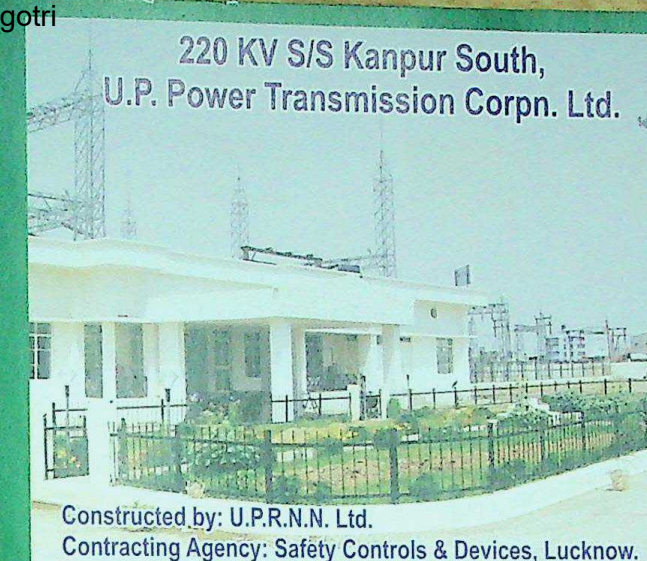
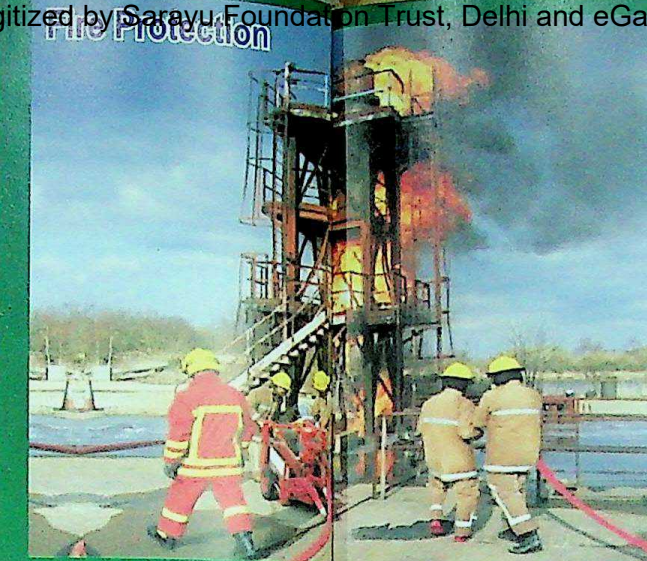
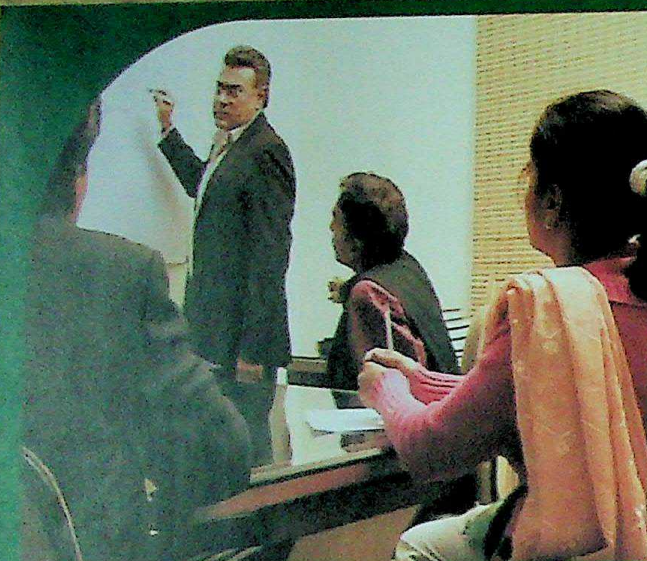
Office of the Post Master General, early 20th century



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

The Office today, with a garden frontage

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Then & Now



Pic Courtesy - Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

Horses & Bullocks once pulled carriages on the wide avenue



Pic Courtesy - Manoj Chhabra

Main Hazratganj road bustling with vehicles today

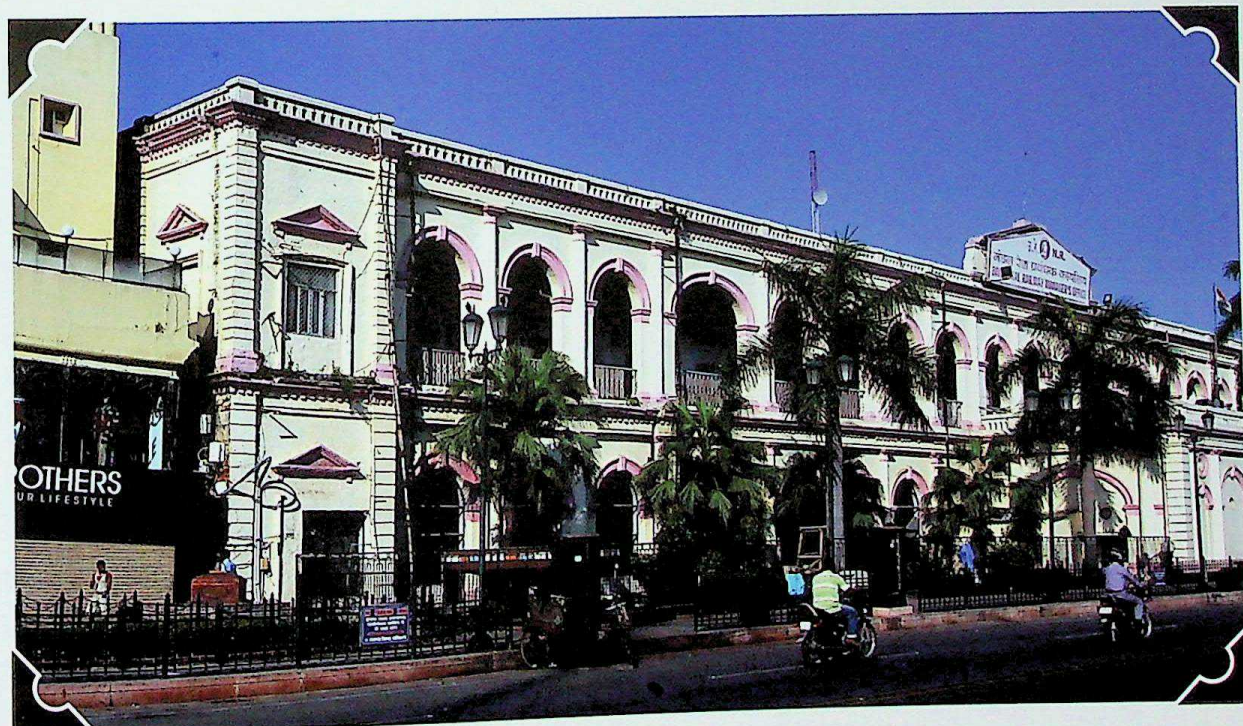
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Then & Now



Pic Courtesy : Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

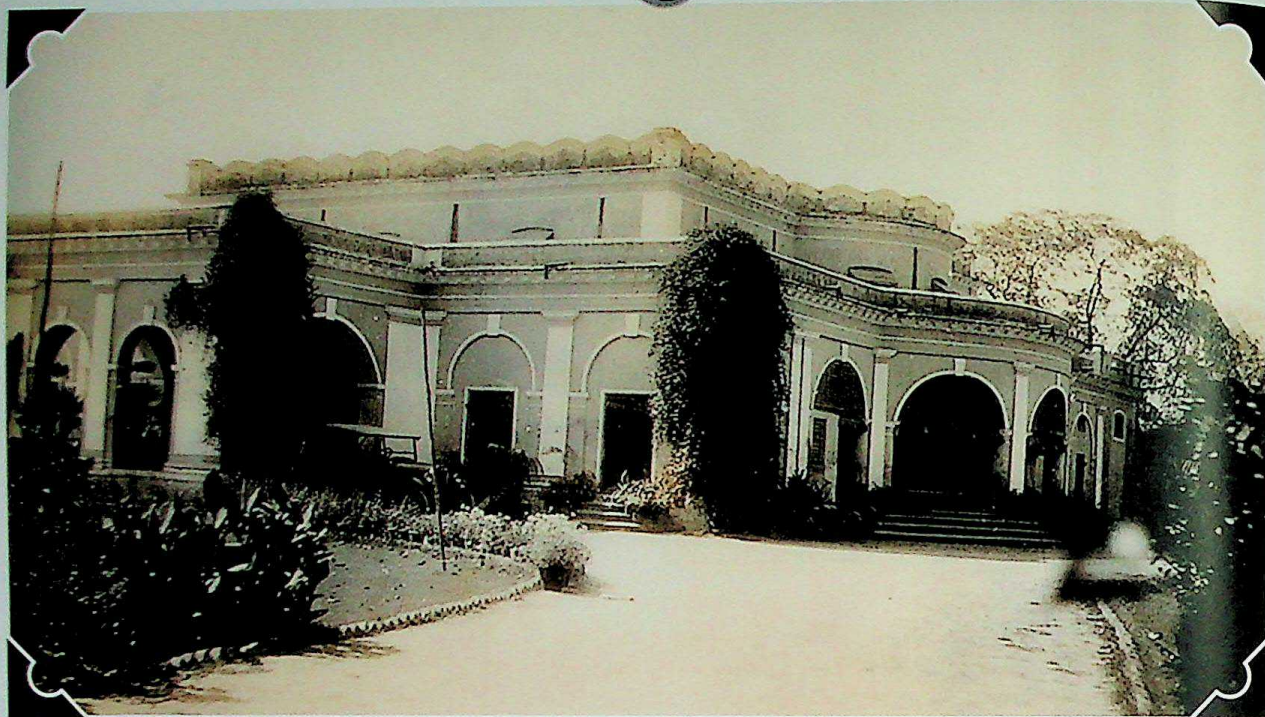
The Northern Railways Office, with Rufener & Co, jewellers on the left



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

Present day view

Then & Now



Pic Courtesy : S.H. Kidwai

2, Mall Road, the house and annexe built by Shahid Hosain, father of the novelist Attia Hosain

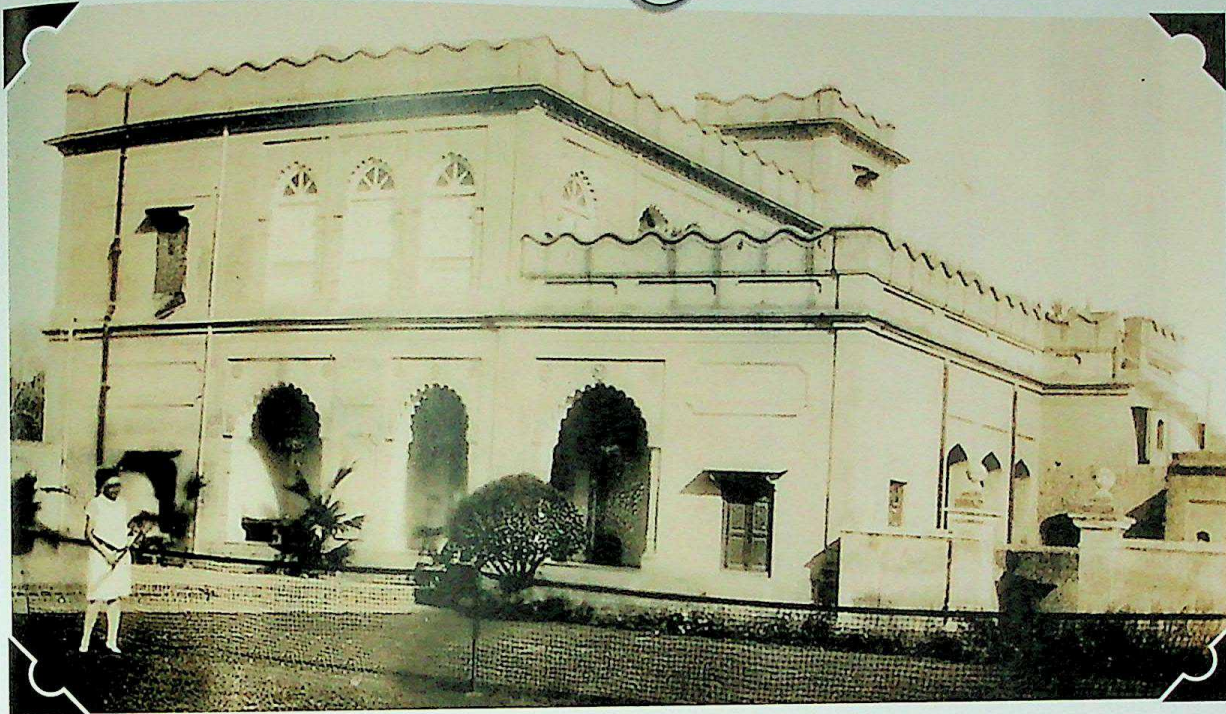


Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

The building survives as an appendage to a bank

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Pic Courtesy : S.H. Kidwai

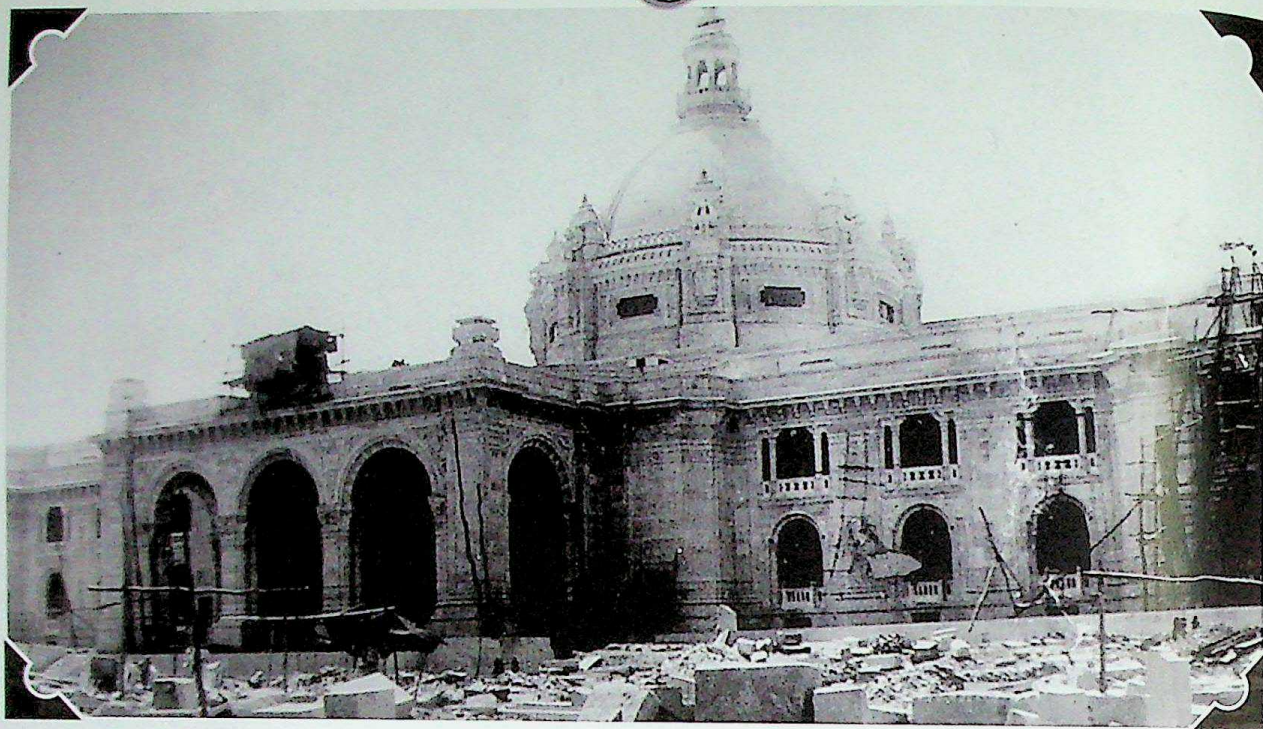
The annexe to the main house with its tennis court at 2 Mall Road



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

The building is altered but recognisable. The tennis court is now a car park

Then & Now



Pic Courtesy: Raju Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

The Council Chamber under construction, 1928



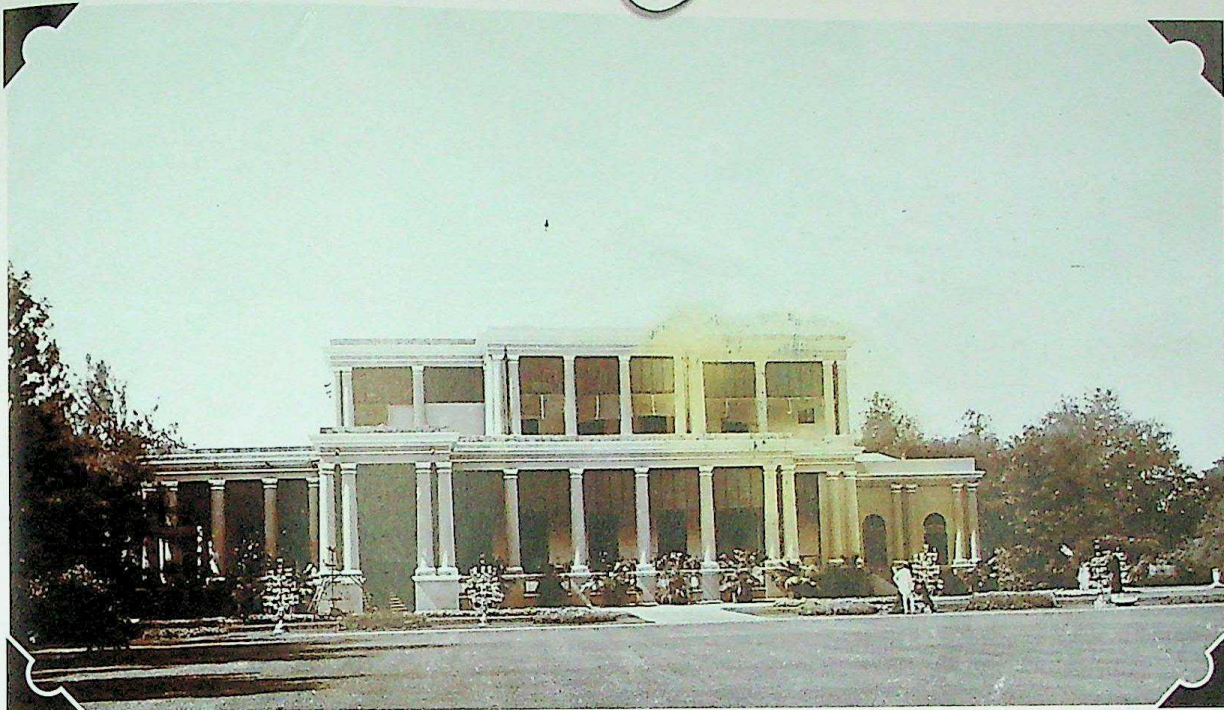
Pic Courtesy: Manoj Chhabra

The Vidhan Sabha, today

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Then & Now



Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

'Bank's Bungalow' home of the first Chief Commissioner, Major John Sherbrooke Banks



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

Now renamed Raj Bhawan, the Governor's House

Then & Now



Pic Courtesy - Raja Ram Kumar Bhargava Collection

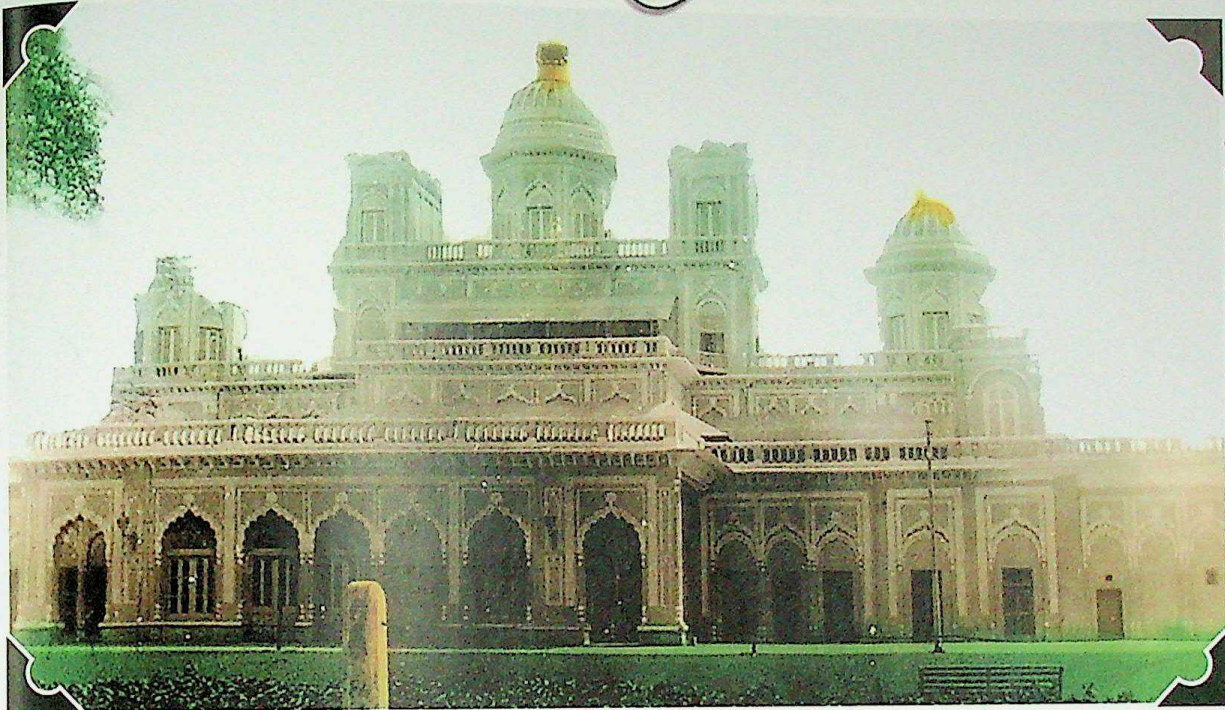
Valerio's tea-room getting a face-lift



Pic Courtesy - Manoj Chhabra

The Gandhi Ashram & Soochma Kendra occupy the premises today

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Pic Courtesy : The State Museum, Lucknow

The Chhatar Manzil Palace became an exclusive club for the British after 1858



Pic Courtesy : Manoj Chhabra

The Central Drug Research Institute, today

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'Anyone who knows Lucknow, knows Hazratganj, for the two are inseparable. Hazratganj runs straight as an arrow from Dilkusha to the old British Residency. The road was first established two hundred years ago, and it has seen both triumph and tragedy as the history of Lucknow unfolded.'

This book is a celebration of the road, starting with its creation as a royal residential area. It continues through the days of the 1857 uprising, to the re-emergence of Hazratganj as a posh street with British-owned shops, and, by the 1940s, numerous places of entertainment.

Today, after years of neglect, Hazratganj has been transformed once again, this time into a superb promenade, lined with fountains, trees and exclusive shops. In a book to treasure, this is the story of Hazratganj, and the people who love it - from its beginning, right up to the present day.'





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